

The People.

A Weekly Newspaper for All Classes.

ONE PENNY. [Registered for Transmission Abroad.]

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THE "PEOPLE" OFFICE,
Saturday Evening.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

MR. BOURKE'S MISSION.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 15.—The deliberations of the Council of Ministers yesterday were confined to the subject of Mr. Bourke's declaration. The Council will hold a special sitting on Saturday or Monday to discuss the whole financial scheme embodied in the draft of the irade. In view of the possibility of some slight modifications being made by the Council, and the approaching departure of M. Valfrey and Herr Prinkner, the French and German delegates (Signor Mancardi, the Italian delegate, has already left), Sirer Pacha has summoned a meeting of the Financial Commission for to-day, in order to decide what shall be done in the event of a modification of the *provis verbal* adopted at its last sitting. Two points remain open: first, the formula for expressing the withdrawal of the Government's declaration, fixing the sum assignable to the bondholders from the tobacco monopoly at £7800,000; and second, which of the two declarations of Mr. Bourke concerning the ratification of the scheme by the bondholders shall be admitted, or whether neither shall be inserted in the final protocol. With regard to the first point the Government intends proposing the following wording:—"The declaration of the Government concerning the tobacco monopoly is withdrawn and replaced by another declaration, by which the Porte adheres to the proposal of M. Valfrey for dividing the profits of the tobacco monopoly on conditions to be settled between the Government, the future Council of Administration, and the company formed for working the monopoly."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 15 (later).—Mr. Bourke was to-day received by Said Pacha, to whom he gave explanations with regard to his previous declaration in the Financial Commission. He maintained the declaration in question, and stated that he must submit the irade to the bondholders, notwithstanding the telegram from the London Stock Exchange, but added that it was a purely formal act. The Ministerial Council accepted the draft of the irade, which will be submitted to the Sultan for approval to-morrow. It is believed that no further sitting of the Financial Commission will now be required.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 16.—The Sultan, acting upon the advice of the Premier, Said Pacha, withholds his sanction to the irade embodying the scheme for the settlement of the Turkish Debt.

The Ministers, having in Council approved the irade, have submitted it to the Sultan for his sanction.

It is stated that Mr. Bourke, in order to avoid all further difficulty, will consent to his declaration being excluded from the Protocol.

STRIKE OF COLLIERIES.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—A strike has broken out among the miners in the Grand-duke coal pits in the Department of the Gard. Disturbances occurred and the managers were threatened by the men. The troops have been consigned to barracks.

AN ENGLISHMAN SHOT.

MADRID, Dec. 15.—Intelligence received here from Malaga states that a sentinel, stationed at the prison, five times called out to an Englishman who was walking around its walls, "Who goes there?" in Spanish. The Englishman, not understanding the call, remained silent, whereupon the sentinel fired and killed him. The military authorities are investigating the occurrence.

M. ROCHEFORT AND M. ROUSTAN.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The journals this evening state that M. Roustan will not return to Tunis, but that he will be appointed to another important post. The *Figaro* says that public opinion will not ratify the appointment in the Roustan-Rochefort trial, by which M. Rochefort was acquitted. It moreover points out, basing its observations on the statements of M. Rochefort's own counsel, that the verdict does not imply a condemnation of the Tunisian expedition, or censure of the Government, but simply signifies that M. Rochefort acted in good faith in attacking M. Roustan as he did.

VIOLENT HURRICANE IN TUNIS.

TUNIS, Dec. 15.—A most violent hurricane swept over Tunis and its environs last night. Numerous tents were carried away by the tempest. A wall at Medjez was blown down, killing five men of the 12th Regiment of the Line, and wounding seven others, three seriously. Numerous telegraph wires were broken by the gale.

GERMANY.

BERLIN, Dec. 16, 2 a.m.—At eight o'clock last night the Reichstag resumed the discussion of the motion relating to irregularities at elections, and condemning the exercise of official influence. The debate lasted until past midnight, and ended in a resolution to refer the motion to the Election Committee.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 16, Evening.—It is stated that M. Challengier-Lacour is about to resign his post as Ambassador in London, on the ground of ill-health, and that he will be succeeded by M. Tissot. In that case, it is expected that the Marquis de Noailles will be appointed Ambassador to Turkey.

BULGARIA.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 16.—M. Balabanof, the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent here, has been summoned to Sofia. It is believed that he will be appointed either President of the Council of State or Minister of Foreign Affairs.

THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—President Arthur has nominated Mr. Benjamin Harris Brewster, of Pennsylvania, for the post of Attorney-General.

A joint committee of the two Houses of Congress have selected Mr. Blaine to deliver a panegyric on the late President Garfield.

In the House of Representatives to-day, Mr. Robinson, of Brooklyn, vainly endeavored to introduce the subject of the treatment of American citizens in Ireland, coupled with a censure upon the policy of the State Department. He was declared out of order, and not allowed to proceed. The House resolved to adjourn on the 21st inst. until January 5th.

STORM IN NORTH AMERICA.

ALGIERES, Dec. 16.—A violent storm broke over Algeria yesterday, and has caused much damage. The telegraph lines between Constantine and Oran are broken, and some dams near the Algiers-Oran Railway have burst, the result being to flood the line in several places, and to render it impossible. Many fatal accidents are also reported. Several vessels engaged in the coasting trade have been lost, and the Tunisian brig *Mascara* foundered during the storm in the outer harbour of Bona. The captain and two of the crew were drowned.

LATEST GENERAL NEWS.

The Opening of Parliament.

The Queen will, it is understood, come to London in February in order to open Parliament. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice will probably travel direct from Osborne to the metropolis, where the Court is expected to remain for a couple of days, returning after the ceremonial to the Isle of Wight.

Lord Ripon.

A Calcutta telegram announces that the Marquis of Ripon, Governor-general of India, has left for Burmah.

Mr. Gladstone.

A telegram from Belgrade, dated Thursday, states that Mr. Gladstone has been elected an honorary member of the Learned Society of Belgrade.

Mr. Gladstone has, it is rumoured in the Clubs, resolved upon a great coup. He will bring into Parliament next Session a modified scheme of Home Rule for Ireland, and stake the existence of his Government on the acceptance of his plan. So at least it is said by many of the well-informed. The scheme will include a strange plan for local self-government in England, Scotland, and Wales as well. It will give power to local committees to relieve Parliament of all but Imperial work. And it will satisfy, it is hoped, the Celtic craving for a national Parliament. Men are anxiously wondering if this be true.—*County Gentleman*.

Lighting a Town by Electricity.

On Thursday night the town of Godalming, in Surrey, was successfully lighted by electricity. Water-power, combined with steam, is adopted to work a dynamo machine.

A New Peer.

It is announced that Mr. Gladstone has offered a peerage to Sir E. Bramwell, who lately resigned his position of Lord Justice of Appeal, and that the offer has been accepted.

A Noble Bankrupt.

On Friday, in the London Bankruptcy Court, an application was made to Mr. Registrar Hazlitt, sitting as chief judge, for an order to close the bankruptcy in the matter of the Hon. John Wodehouse, called Lord Wodehouse, the eldest son of the Earl of Kimberley, who was adjudicated on the 20th of December, 1875, being described as of Kimberley House, Wymond-le-Val, Norfolk. The accounts showed total debts £25,541 15s., and assets nil. His honour made the order to close.

Sentence of Death.

At the Cork assizes on Friday, Mr. Justice Fitzgerald passed sentence of death upon the woman Margaret Halloran, who was convicted on the previous day of the murder of her infant child.

Intended Dismissal of a Chief Constable.

The Birmingham Watch Committee again met on Friday, to consider the conduct of Major Bond, chief constable of the town, on whom they, on Tuesday, passed a vote of want of confidence, and after some discussion adopted a resolution, with only one dissentient, that Major Bond was no longer fitted to hold the office of chief of the police, and that they would inform the Town Council of their intention to dismiss him.

The Potters' Strike.

The men engaged in the Staffordshire Potteries have rejected the concessions made by the masters and demanded an arbitration. The masters, on the other hand, characterise the new demand of the employees as unreasonable and impossible of acceptance. The men, it is stated, have obtained the sympathy and assistance of the parliamentary committee of the Trades' Union, and this, it is expected, will indefinitely prolong the strike.

Contagious Diseases Among Animals.

A Blue Book published on Friday, gives in detail the operations of the Act of 1878 in England, Wales, and Scotland, during the years 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, and 1882. Taking the year 1880, the number of foreign cattle, sheep, and swine imported into Great Britain was as follows:—Cattle, 288,422; sheep, 942,229; swine, 31,127; making a total of 1,327,848 animals. Of these animals the following were found to be affected with a contagious or infectious disease: 231 cattle suffering from pleuropneumonia; 70 cattle, 70 sheep, and 15 swine suffering from foot-and-mouth disease; 3 sheep suffering from sheep-pox; 418 sheep suffering from sheep-scab; and 416 swine suffering from fever, making a total of 1,225 animals suffering from disease.

Recent Wills.

The Irish probate of the will, with a codicil, of Sir George Pomeroy Colley, K.C.S.I., who was killed at Majuba Hill, on Feb. 27th last, to Lady Edith Pomeroy Colley, has been re-sealed at the Principal Registry, London, the personal estate in England and Ireland amounting to nearly £5,000. The following wills have also been recently proved: that of Mr. Baines Currie, late of Minley Manor, Hants, personally under £250,000; of Mr. Thomas David King Watts, late of the Wyndham Club, St. James's-square, and of Hyères, in France, personally exceeding £250,000; of Mr. Thomas Reginald Chaney, late of 7, Grove-place, Brompton, £17,000; of the Right Hon. William Nathaniel Massey, P.C., M.P. for Tiverton, late of 71, Chester-square, £16,000; and of Mr. Edward John Trelawney, late of Pelham-crescent, Brompton, and of Sompney, Sussex, £14,000.

A Sailors' Home at Dundee.

A Sailors' Home was opened at Dundee on Friday by the Earl of Dalhousie. It is a splendid building, with accommodation for eighty seamen, and has been erected and furnished at a cost of £15,000, the money being subscribed by a few leading merchants.

The Governorship of Hong Kong.

It is stated that Sir J. Pope Hennessy will be relieved next year of the Governorship of Hong Kong, and that the appointment will probably be offered, in the first instance, to Sir H. T. Irving, late Governor of Trinidad.

Mr. Gladstone and the Sugar Industry.

Replying to a communication from the Bristol Sugar Workers' Committee relative to the statement that appeared in the newspapers some little time ago, to the effect that a royal commission was about to proceed to the West Indies to inquire into the sugar industry there, and its competition with the bounty-fed beetroot sugar of Europe, Mr. Gladstone's secretary writes:—"I am directed by Mr. Gladstone to inform you that there is no truth in the rumour."

Libel by a City Merchant.

At the Central Criminal Court, on Friday, Mr. W. B. Chalmer, a merchant engaged in the China trade, and carrying on business in the city, was found guilty of libelling his former partner, Mr. Lockland McIntosh, and ordered to pay the taxed costs of the prosecution.

and £100 in addition towards the residue of the costs, and enter into a recognisance to appear and receive judgment if called upon.

Loss of a Vessel and Fourteen Lives.

A telegram from Galway states that a boat, containing fourteen passengers, left Galway on Thursday evening for the Island of Arran, and when about midway between the two places, seventeen miles from Galway, encountered the full force of a storm, which had sprung up. She was unable to contend with the gale and sank, and all on board perished.

An Insane Bride.

In the Divorce Court, on Friday, Sir James Hannen pronounced a decree nisi for the dissolution of the marriage of Mr. Robert Hunter, son of, and employed by, an organ builder in London, with a young lady the daughter of Mrs. Edney, landlady of the Red Lion Inn, at Horsham. The ground on which Mr. Hunter petitioned was that, at the time of their marriage his wife was insane.

A Brave Schoolmistress.

Friday night's *Gazette* announced that the Queen has conferred the Albert medal of the second class on Miss Hannah Rosiotham, 23 years of age, assistant schoolmistress in the Sutton National Schools, for having, at the imminent risk of her own life, rescued several children on the occasion of the school being partially blown down in a gale of wind, on the 11th of last October.

Discovery of Coffins.

Over a hundred coffins have been discovered in a vault under the vestibule of St. Vedast Church, Foster-lane, Cheap-side. About fifty of them were lying upon the floor of the vault, some of them being entirely uncovered, while others had a little charcoal over them. Dr. Saunders, the Officer of Health for the City, and an official from the Home Office, have inspected the place, and have ordered the placing of the coffins under the soil, and the filling up of the vault.

Destructive Fire at Leeds.

Shortly after midnight on Friday, a disastrous fire broke out at Messrs. Fowler's steam plough works, Hunslet, Leeds. The works cover nine acres of ground, and considerably more than half has been destroyed. The fire broke out in the store-room, through two oil lamps becoming ignited by some means. The flames soon spread to the roof, and travelled with great rapidity to the turning and fitting rooms, and to other departments. A great quantity of the most valuable machinery has been destroyed. Sixteen hundred hands were employed at the works. The damage is estimated at from £20,000 to £270,000, all of which is covered by insurance.

Mr. Bourke's Mission.

Mr. Bourke receives, I understand, £10,000 as a recognition of his labours on behalf of the Turkish bondholders. Before, however, the agreement is concluded, he will return to England and visit his clients. He will then go back to Constantinople and complete his mission. I prophesy that the new arrangement will work well for about eight months.—*County Gentleman*.

STEALING EARL CRAWFORD'S BODY.

A correspondent telegraphs:—All hope of finding the body of the late Earl of Crawford and Balcarres seems now to be abandoned so far as the Duncecht district is concerned. The staff of constabulary on duty has been still further reduced. Lord Crawford has left Duncecht for Haigh Hall, Lancashire, where he will spend a few days, and then proceed to London. Mr. Alsop has also left Duncecht direct for London, and Inspector Swanson is expected to leave in a few days. In consequence of numerous letters from physicians and others, suggesting that the body had never been brought to this country, it is officially stated that the corpse was placed in the inner shell in the presence of the late Earl's confidential servant, who is now in the service of the Duke of Westminster, that it was then seen by the physician and notary public, in whose presence it was sealed up, and that their sworn declaration was embodied in two documents, sealed and delivered by him to the various consuls at the stopping-places on the route, whose signatures were affixed in attestation that the seals were unbroken, in which state it reached Aberdeen. The body, it is added, only reached Duncecht, the identity established, and it was deposited in the crypt.

A POLISH NATIONAL MEMORIAL.—A monument is to be erected at Cracow, the ancient capital of Poland, in commemoration of the leading Polish poet and patriot, Adam Mickiewicz, by means of voluntary contributions, by his fellow-countrymen and admirers. A special committee of notables has been appointed to carry out the work, and already funds to a large amount have been collected. As there is no Polish periodical in this country through which Poles resident in the United Kingdom can be addressed, we are requested to state that all particulars on the subject may be obtained by application (either in English or Polish) to F. Karol and Co., Anglo-Polish Agency, 23, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street, London.

THE POPE'S ALLOCATION.—At the Secret Allocution to the Sacred College, and the numerous assembly of bishops gathered together in Rome on the occasion of the canonization, the Pope said that the present state of things in Europe was such as to leave no doubt that the cause of the Pope would be put on one side. Nevertheless, certain Governments had promised him their sincere assistance. The Pope went on to exhort the bishops to use their utmost efforts to keep alive the spirit of religion in the population, as a means of laying the foundation of a better future. The Pontiff further said that the dispositions of the House of Savoy were good, but that it was so bound up with the revolution that it was powerless to do anything.

We hear from Berlin that the Slavophil papers are exasperated at the glaring defects and incapability of the Russian Admiralty, and are also alarmed at what they consider the dangerous increase of the German navy.

With the approval of the Prime Minister and the Secretary to the Local Government Board, the Cobden Club have in the press for publication in a few weeks a new volume of Essays on Local Government and Taxation, intended to assist in the public discussion in anticipation of legislation on county government, the municipal government of London, &c.

According to information received from Sydney, New South Wales, an accident has occurred at the Pill Island, which had resulted in the drowning, owing to the capsizing of a boat, of a Lieutenant of her Majesty's survey vessel *Albion*, and two seamen. Lieutenant Phillips was some distance away from land, and was, it is supposed, taken under by a shark. The remaining two seamen, who were in the boat for a long time after the disaster, but were finally washed off and drowned.

LATEST FROM IRELAND.

Seizure of a Newspaper.

On Thursday evening, at an advanced hour, Inspectors Mallon, Sheridan, Rowan, and other officers belonging to the detective force of Dublin, proceeded to the office of the *United Ireland*, the Land League organ, and entered the premises. The sudden move caused the utmost surprise, and was entirely unexpected. The paper was published on Wednesday morning for Saturday, as usual, and had been selling largely throughout the day. Every remaining copy of the issue was seized and carried off in a cart. The *Irishman* and *Shamrock* newspapers, published in the same house, were not interfered with. Mr. Arthur O'Keefe, belonging to the editorial staff of *United Ireland*, was arrested, when passing through the hall, on a warrant charging him with inciting persons to obtain from paying their rents. He was conveyed to Kilmainham immediately. Subsequently Mr. Burton, also belonging to the staff of the paper, was arrested. A Cork correspondent telegraphs that considerable commotion was caused there on Thursday night, owing to a number of detectives entering the premises of every news-vendor in the city and seizing any copies of *United Ireland* newspaper which they were able to find. Close on 1,000 copies were in this way carried off almost as soon as the vendors had received their consignments from Dublin. It is believed that very few copies have got into circulation.

Mr. Parnell's Farm.

On Thursday, several hundred tenant-farmers assembled at the farm of Mr. Parnell, M.P., at Arndale, county Wicklow, and in a few hours ploughed the land and performed all necessary work. After the completion of their labours, cheers were given for the Land League, Parnell, Davitt, Dillon, Sheehy, and others, and the assembly dispersed quietly.

Arrests.

It is reported that Mr. Redmond, M.P., has been arrested, under the provisions of the Coercion Act, and lodged in Kilmainham gaol, on a charge of inciting persons not to pay rent and to resist the law.

On Wednesday, Mr. Wm. Delany, secretary to the Abbey-leix, Queen's County, Land League, and another Mr. Delany, shopkeeper at Outyard, in the colliery district of the same county, were arrested under the Coercion Act, and lodged in Clonmel Gaol.

A Loughrea telegram says:—Captain Henry Pilkington, John Gilmann, and John Connaught were arrested on Thursday night under the Coercion Act on warrants charging them with inciting divers persons not to pay their rents. Captain Pilkington was sent to Clonmel prison, and Messrs. Gilmann and Connaught to Galway prison. Captain Pilkington was secretary to the late Killeenagh Land League.

Mr. Egan's Salary.

Mr. Pigott, who sold the *Irishman* to Mr. Egan, has stated in a letter to a Dublin newspaper that Mr. Egan's salary as director of the financial department of the Land League, is £2,000 a-year, and that he receives as much more for expenses.

Mr. Parnell.

Mr. Dawson, M.P., Lord Mayor elect, has sent a requisition to the Lord Mayor, signed by thirty-one members of the Dublin Town Council, calling upon him to summon a meeting of that body for Tuesday next, when a motion to confer the freedom of the City on Mr. Parnell will be submitted.

Shooting at Constables.

Three constables were on patrol through the old town in Limerick, on Wednesday night, about eleven o'clock, when a shot was fired at them, the bullet passing close to them and striking the wall. A search was made for the offender, whom the constables allege they can identify, a light having been thrown on him from a lamp near which he stood.

Nine Violent Farmers.

At the Winter Assizes for Connaught, held at Carrick-on-Shannon, before Baron Fitzgerald, nine farmers from Kilmoghly, Leitrim, were charged with having assaulted Bryan McGovern, an old man of 70. It appeared that the prosecutor and his son were subjected to a very severe system of Boycotting, in consequence of the son not leaving the employment of the landlord, as the other workmen had done. Prosecutor was injured with stones, and his donkey and cart driven into a ditch. One of the prisoners was found guilty of a common assault, and sentenced to two months' hard labour. All the others were discharged.

Attack on a Farmer.

On Thursday night, whilst a farmer, with some of his family and relations, were returning from a fair near Knock, they were attacked in the road by a party of men, and severely beaten. The life of one of the victims is despaired of, and his dying depositions have been taken. Three men have been arrested.

FIRES IN THEATRES.

The following circular has been sent from the Lord Chamberlain's office to all the theatres in London:—"It has once more become the painful duty of the Lord Chamberlain to call the attention of the managers to a dreadful catastrophe from a fire in a theatre, accompanied by a very great loss of life. The theatre at Vienna, which has now been destroyed, appears to have been fairly well arranged and supplied with many modern appliances for safety, but the explosion of gas on the stage extinguished the lights in the auditorium. The consequent darkness added to the panic and confusion which ensued, and doubtless prevented the audience from availing themselves of the means of escape provided for them. It must be assumed that in this case, as in the catastrophe at Nice, the gas supply to the two parts of the house were in connection with each other. The Lord Chamberlain has already called the attention of the managers to the extreme importance of an entirely distinct and separate system of lighting for the stage and auditorium. At the annual inspection of the theatres in September last this was specially inquired into, when it appeared that, almost without exception, the houses were supplied with gas from two or more mains, and that a distinct service to the front and stage could be arranged without material difficulty or expense. The Lord Chamberlain is fully prepared to acknowledge the readiness of the managers to carry out any reasonable requirements for the safety and convenience of the public, and he feels convinced that they will agree with him that the experience of these recent calamities makes it imperative that the arrangement above alluded to should be carried out in all theatres with as little delay as possible. The Lord Chamberlain must, therefore, call on them to do so, and requests the managers of the Theatre, in acknowledging the receipt of this circular, at his earliest convenience, to state what steps he may propose to take in the matter."

Mr. John Maitland, one of the proprietors of the *Liverpool Mercury*, and chairman for the year of the Press Association, died on Monday last.

SPORTS OF THE PEOPLE.

Until Boxing-day there will not be any horse racing, and the present interregnum is for the sporting journals what the gooseberry season is for the dailies. The perpetual-motion followers of sport, to whom constantly recurring excitement or at any rate opportunity for gambling is necessary to existence, are obliged to fall back upon courting and billiards. As is their duty when the dull time comes, the tables compiled by turf accountants, and classed under the heading of statistics, are now used for purposes of furnishing copy, but elaboration of the columns of figures cannot be made interesting. Just the few lines at the top of each list are glanced at and the rest of the patient work which has occupied so much time, is skipped by the public, for whom the accounts have been so painfully compiled.

Lovers of the leash have this season, up till Wednesday of this week, been very lucky in not being interfered with by frost. In the latter part of last and the earlier months of this year, coursing men were frozen out, and many meetings ruined owing to postponements. The stock article, the Waterloo cup, of course being introduced as a medium for speculation, but I do not think much business has been done on it so far. For favourite, the pick made is naturally enough Mr. Alexander's nomination, and bookmakers appear to be so greatly impressed by the form lately shown by that gentleman's kennel that they only offer 100 to 7 against it. Fourteen and a small fraction to one may be a fair price since any advance upon the quotation is taken, but the odds are not very short when it is considered that the event will not be decided for many weeks to come, and how greatly the element of luck influences the results in series of trials. Over and over again have the "potted" good things been upset through the thousand and one little untoward circumstances likely to occur, but experience will not teach backers of greyhounds, and each season they seem to wipe out all memory of former fancies, and go to the losing game of accepting false prices with pristine zest. On Wednesday, at Darlington and at Lytham the Ridgway Club were unable to commence their meeting, but a change of the weather softened the ground almost as quickly as it had hardened. Perhaps the event just now of most importance in the coursing world is the sale of greyhounds advertised to take place on Saturday afternoon at Aldridge's. Among the lots to be offered by Messrs. Freeman are included the dogs belonging to Mr. Postle. No doubt there will be a great muster to see last Waterloo Cup winner, Princess Dagmar, put up, and the competition for new ownership will, if report says true, be keenly contested. It has been stated that a well-known speculator accepted a bet of three to one in thousands that the Princess will not run. Should this be correct and no compromise be effected, there is a chance of a very nice middle being made at the sale. Both sides will, of course, want to buy the bitch, and as far as I can see the lover of odds is bound to outbid the taker of the bet. The former must make Princess Dagmar his property to protect his £8,000, and can afford to go farther than the other, whose risk is only a third of that sum. At the same time, it is in his power to make his opponent pay very dearly, and waste as much as he can win. Such wagers as these are always better left alone. They are generally made in the heat of discussion, and, as a rule, end in creating ill-feeling, while frequently a wrangle takes the place of settlement.

I gave particulars last week of the arrangements made for the billiard handicap concluded on Monday at the Palais Royal over Hengler's Circus. This, in which Cook, Roberts, Mitchell, Taylor, Shorter, Stanley, Peall, and Lloyd are engaged, has been called the greatest event organised. It is a notable affair, but for public interest will not bear comparison with those played years ago at the Philharmonic Music Hall, the Guildhall Tavern, and elsewhere. Up to Wednesday evening three rounds of heats had been worked through, Roberts and Mitchell were at the head of the score with three wins apiece, while Taylor and Shorter had each a couple to their credit. Before Monday evening many changes may take place, but the position of the leading players are so far in accordance with anticipation, and they are in capital form. Somehow there always seems to be a difficulty about fitting up a table, and procuring true running balls. I have attended pretty nearly all the big matches and handicaps decided in London during some years, and I can say with confidence that complaints against the tools wherewith and whereon the game is played have been steadily growing more frequent. At Argyle-street on the first day it was found that the table had sunk, its weight having forced in the flooring, and the balls were not satisfactory. Manufacturers of these spheres have a trying time of it. The getting them so nearly true as to fulfil the wants of the players, depends only upon the workmanship and willingness to buy good ivory, and can be dealt with, but though apparently faultless, when tried by ordinary tests, they develop faults after being used a little while. The force of impact alters their consistency or "temper," and it is only rarely, by accident in fact, that a set will keep all right. Another noteworthy circumstance in valuing breaks made on different days is that not only do the men play better as they become accustomed to the table, but the board itself is generally rendered easier for them. So far Roberts has scored the longest run, a 512; Shorter, 323; Mitchell, 311; and Peall 318, have also put together five series of spot hazards. "Young John" Roberts' challenge to the world to play 3,000 up on an ordinary table will not, I think, remain long unaccepted. For some months it has been an understood thing that a match under conditions similar to the proposed was in course of arrangement between Roberts and Cook, and the amount, £500 or £1,000 aside, mentioned by the challenge, will not be a bar to the bringing the men together. Settling aside this game, it will not answer the purpose of either of them to leave the championship open much longer. Ever since Joseph Bennett met with the accident, which, though not permanently disabling has induced him to give up, at least for the present, all public exhibitions, the title has been in abeyance. Although the merits of our two greatest events are fully recognised, possession of the championship is of a certain value to whichever may hold it, and another trial should shortly come off between the old opponents.

On Monday, Dr. Carver, for once in a way, finished second in a pigeon-shooting match. The Yankee was attempting to give Mr. Maas ten yards from thirty-four, in consideration of his opponent shooting with one hand only. He had also very good birds trapped against him, and was beaten by half-a-dozen, Mr. Maas killing 67 to 61. Another match of a similar character and other kinds of fancy shooting are talked about, but a stop is likely to come to the business. These affairs do not pay, as the public do not care about looking on at them, and where money is deposited each side stands to lose a great deal in the way of expenses.

Next week will be a busy one in the way of aquatics, and two fairly important sculling matches are to be decided. On Tuesday, Godwin and Unbuer meet again over the Thames championship course, and a couple of days later, Perkins and George Thomas. When Godwin rowed Unbuer some time back, he had the stakes given him through his opponent's bad watermanship. Up to the Scow Works, Unbuer managed, despite his pulling with both one hand and then the other, to keep Godwin at full tension. After passing the bridge it was a question of who would "crack" first. Godwin was beaten, as far as could be seen, and if the other could have spurted for a few seconds he would have taken the lead. Another effort was not in him, however, and Godwin, getting time for a "blow," recovered from the effects of his earlier exertions, and was not much troubled during the remaining portion of the course. Since then the winner has been beaten by one of the Gibsons, but is now a better man. He has been fitted out by the well-known Putney boat builders, Phelps and Peters, who so well studied his wants that he has improved greatly in pace, and has his work made easier to him. In his last race, wherein he upset the long odds laid on the Irishman, "Flynn," he sculled in fine style, and, thanks to the way his craft was rigged by Phelps and his partner, was able to slide some inches farther than he used. It is quite likely that, though Unbuer, who does not look nearly in training, may have got rid of some of his old bad habits, and will come to the start an altogether better waterman and sculler than he was, he will find his

old opponent has, of the two, advanced the more. In Perkins and Thomas will be seen a couple of the most promising youngsters on the Thames. I have occasionally seen the former do remarkably pretty work, and, for his strength, he makes a boat travel fast. Thomas, a brother of the well-known Harry, did very well at the Chinnery Regatta, wherein he sculled third for the second-class prize, won by Rix. He then, in my opinion, seemed to scull like a stranger. At the finish of the race he was certainly going faster than the two men before him, and had the course been another mile further, might have won. Boyd's appeal to the North countryman seems likely to be answered by the subscription of the £50 wanted, and part, if not the whole, of the £500 stake. At present no conditions are mentioned as to sharing profits, if any result from the proposed race. When the money was subscribed to provide Laycock's £500, won by the Canadian champion, it was arranged that the sum was to be returned in case he won, and the amount "put up" by Hanlan would go to Laycock. As a rule, South country backers of rowing men are much more liberal in their dealings with watermen than are the Newcastle-on-Tyne people. On the Thames, a man matched to row generally has all his expenses of training, new boat, &c., pocketed by his patron, and is not anything out of pocket should the loss of the race. If successful in his engagement he is usually presented with the winnings in stake money, and it has frequently happened when a backer has had a "good race" that the whole of the stakes have been handed to the winner. At Newcastle a far harder bargain used to be made. A percentage—about equal to one-eighth—on the money found was allowed for the sculler's expenses, win or lose, and in the former contingency happening another eighth added. Perhaps few men have had their earnings in boat racing more eaten up than Hanlan, who, what with some of the "Hanlan Club" standing in his match with Trickett, and the cost of paying for his friends visit to England, and bearing all the deductions, while the others took their gains free from drawbacks, made very little out of his great race. So far have the Novocastrians gone in the way of promising support to their representative, that he feels justified in agreeing to make the match with the champion on very nearly the latter's own terms, and has deposited a hundred pounds. Articles fixing the date for April 5th, and the venue at Newcastle, have been forwarded to the other side, and all seems smoothed for the ratification of the agreement. Possibly the Canadian may want slight variation of the terms, but substantially, he has little cause for objecting to the articles.

Thanks to the enterprise of the *Sporting Life* and the *Sportman*, professional pedestrians will have plenty of races got up for them in London during the winter. The *Life*, the oracle of peds, has arranged a series of handicaps to come off at Bow Ground. At this East-end resort there is the best track in London, probably in the country, and as most of the people concerned in pedestrianism are dwellers in that quarter of the metropolis it is about as convenient and well suited for the purpose as could be found. Lillie Bridge has been selected by the advisers of the *Sportman*, and for nearly two establishments the game will be well watched. Not a few London admirers of walking will travel to Sheffield to see the three hours' race between Raby and Arthur Hancock, on December 26th. Some very unpleasant recollections are associated with walking at Sheffield; it is not likely that either man will be impeded on that occasion. Hancock was by no means so well as could be wished, when Raby defeated him at Lillie Bridge a short time back, and has been steadily training for this event since articles were signed.

WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

MYSTERIOUS POISONING AT CHELSEA.

On Wednesday, Dr. Diplock held an adjourned inquiry at 11, Beaufort-street, Chelsea, touching the death of Mrs. Julia Guillem, aged 27, the wife of Mr. Robert John Guillem, resident at the above address.—The evidence which had been given on the two previous occasions went to show that the deceased was taken ill on the 6th ult., and attended by Dr. Crisp and other practitioners. She died on the 11th, her symptoms for a day or two previously having been those noticeable in cases of strychnine poisoning. There was marked rigidity of the muscles, and the subsequent analysis of Professor Stevenson, of Guy's Hospital, showed the presence of a small quantity of strychnine in the stomach and intestines of the deceased. Professor Stevenson recalled, and he had made a further examination of the contents of the intestines of the deceased, and found that the quantity was very small, and did not reach so much as one-fiftieth part of a grain. He received, on the 7th inst., from Mr. Ridewood, coroner's officer, a bottle of medicine, of which two doses were absent. It was an ordinary saline mixture, quite free from strychnine, and it was a medicine such as might be given for vomiting. From the quantity of strychnine found he could not say the total quantity which might have been in the body. He only detected positive evidence of the poison in one of the sealed bottles containing the intestines of the deceased. The quantity he found was obviously only the quantity absorbed. He could not say whether the poison was placed in the sealed bottle after the death of the deceased. His opinion was, that, consequently, on her being attacked, had strychnine, which produced the ordinary symptoms of the poisoning, and the combined effect of the exhaustion, and strychnine necessitated an operation to produce premature delivery of the child, under which she succumbed.—Several other witnesses were examined, but no one seemed to be able to show under what circumstances the strychnine was administered.—The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was poisoned by strychnine, but how it was administered there was no evidence to show.

FATAL ACCIDENT WITH THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

At Hatfield-house, the residence of the Marquis of Salisbury, a labourer named William Dinmore, 22 years of age, was accidentally killed on Monday by coming into contact with the wire conveying the electric current which lights the mansion. Hatfield-house is lighted with 117 lights on the Brush system, worked by an engine of 16-horse power placed in the sawmills some distance from the house. Two electric wires and a telephone wire connect the sawmills with the mansion; for some distance they are carried on poles, but to save the unsightly appearance of the poles near the house, the wires are run along the garden wall, 3ft. from the ground, and for some distance they are not insulated or protected. The deceased was at work in the garden, attempting to lay a telephone wire, and was sent to prevent its getting out. While he was about looking round, saw the wire shake, and, on looking back, saw the machine was at work at the time, and it is supposed that the deceased slipped, catching hold of the electric wire to save himself, was immediately killed by the current. The insurance man stated at the inquest that neither he or the deceased knew the machine was at work; but the man in charge of the lighting arrangements said he told the houseman of it, and had purposely sent him to work at the telephone wire, and had hundred yards away from the electric wires. This witness said he did not think the deceased would have been fatal if it had not been a wet day, and the deceased's clothes saturated with wet. The medical evidence showed that death arose from shock to the system, causing paralysis of the heart. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict that the deceased died through touching the electric wire, and appended a recommendation that there should be a stated time for working the current, and that notice should be given of it to all persons engaged near the wires. It was stated that to avoid similar accidents in future the wires would be conveyed either underground or on poles out of reach.

A SHARP'S Egg.—A lady in the Rumpaland district writes:—The other morning the boys brought me an egg, which I took to be a hen's, although it seemed larger than usual; and when I went to make a pudding for dinner, I broke it, and, to my horror discovered inside of it a perfect little snake.

FEARFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

COLLISION AT FINSBURY-PARK.

List of Killed and Wounded.

Another frightful accident, of a fatal and destructive character, occurred to three trains on the North London Railway between Finsbury-park and Canonbury stations on the morning of the 10th inst. The accident occurred in the tunnel which is situated between Finsbury-park and Canonbury stations. It appears that the train which left Finsbury-park at nine o'clock was brought to a stand in the tunnel from some cause or other which is as yet necessarily unexplained. A second train leaves the same station at three minutes past nine, and it ran into the first one standing in the tunnel with such force as to knock it off the rails. The collision, however, as far as can be ascertained, was not so severe as to kill or mortally injure any of the passengers in either train. It is stated that the passengers in the 9.3 a.m. train escaped uninjured beyond a slight shaking, those who were in the last carriages of the first train and those in the first carriage of the second train suffering most. Both trains, it may be mentioned, were full of

City Men on their Way to Business.

some of the third-class carriages being so full that many of the passengers were standing. Notwithstanding that there was great alarm, no attempt was made to leave the carriages, and it was thought that they would be extricated from the tunnel without further mishap. Suddenly the rumour spread through the 9.3 train that a third train—namely, the 9.8 from Finsbury-park—would, in the ordinary course of events, be on its way and nearing the tunnel, which, it may be stated, is about half-a-mile long. The anxiety and terror were great, and within a minute of the rumour the red lights of the 9.8 train were seen entering the tunnel. The line at this point is slightly inclined in the direction of the Broad-street terminus, and even if the engine-driver of the third train saw his danger he would have great difficulty in slackening speed or pulling up in time. There were loud and terrified shrieks from the passengers of the middle train, and those in charge of the approaching one and the engine-man made a gallant effort to stop the brake, but fortunately succeeded in applying the rate at which the train was travelling. But it was all too late. There was a terrific crash, and in a few moments the greater portion of the middle train was wrecked. Some of the carriages were telescoped, all of the lamps were shattered, the lights were extinguished, and a scene of

Wild and Terrible Confusion

ensued. The sides of the vehicles were split, and the tops of some of them were lifted off in their entirety, falling again upon the prostrate and injured persons lying crushed or maimed on the floor of the carriages. The guard, who was in the rear van of the middle train, was killed instantly, and thrown by the shock on to the crane of the third train. In front of this van were two third-class carriages, and in front of these again a third-class carriage. These sustained the brunt of the smashing; yet, considering the dreadful circumstances of the accident, the marvel is that a great many more deaths were not caused than the number reported by the officials of the company. The darkness caused by the lights of the train having been extinguished greatly added to the terror of the sufferers. There were

Piteous Appeals for Help

from underneath the debris, over which the more fortunate of the passengers were picking their way to that side of the tunnel which was clear of the wreckage. With extreme risk, and every one expecting to be met by a train coming in the opposite direction, they reached Canonbury end of the tunnel, many of them, and caught a train on to Broad-street. There they appeared by dozens, some reporting themselves as injured, some as shaken, and some as having lost umbrellas, coats, hats, and other articles. It was at Canonbury station that the seriously injured were taken out and conveyed in cabs to the German Hospital in Newington-green-road. The passengers complained in indignant terms at the extraordinary fact of two trains being allowed to follow one another on the same line of rails, although worked on

The Block System.

and some explanation will be demanded from the Company in regard to so important a matter. The railway authorities lost no time in forwarding break-down gangs to the spot, the Great Northern and North London co-operating in this task. Mr. Oakley and Mr. Cockhott, of the Great Northern, personally superintended the work of clearance and search, and Mr. Newton, of the North London, offered many practical suggestions to the explorers. It was some time before the extent of the calamity was ascertained, but one by one the dead bodies were taken out, until at length all were sent to the mortuary at Holloway. By about seven o'clock

The Line was Clear.

the locomotive of the second train being the last of the wreckage to be removed. It was taken out of the tunnel on trolleys, and the line was then made ready for the ordinary traffic. The service of trains to Broad-street had been disarranged throughout the day, and thereby great inconvenience was caused to business people. The second collision is admitted by the representatives of the company to have been a very terrible one, and surprise is openly expressed that the number of persons killed was not greater. It is thought that those who were killed must have been in the last carriage of the second train, and in the back portion of that carriage.

The engine ran right through the rear van, of which there is not a piece left larger than a few inches square, and into the end carriage. The tunnel was filled with broken glass from the lamps, and which is a very heavy description. The gas escaping, greatly added to the dangers of the situation, and it is a mercy that the debris was not fired. Many of the passengers were so dirty from the steam, mud, and soot, that they were hardly recognisable on reaching Canonbury station. At first the panic created was extreme, for in many instances relatives travelled by the same train, and those who eventually reached Broad-street were in grief and consternation for their friends or relations. As before stated, many of the injured were sent home in cabs, suffering mostly from cuts, bruises, or shock. Between twenty and thirty persons, which will not give cause for misgiving. Five injured persons who had been hurt very dangerously were reported, though it is hoped that they will ultimately recover.

The following is a complete list of the killed and injured as at present identified.

Killed.

Samuel West, aged 46, guard of the second train, of Morville-street, Bow, who leaves a wife and seven children.
G. Emmett, aged 40, clerk in the employ of Mr. James Hosking, 155, Leadenhall-street.
Alexander Vickery, aged 23, cowkeeper, Mildmay-road.
R. W. Saunders, aged 23, of the firm of E. W. Saunders and Co., Castle-court, Laurence-lane, E.C.
The fifth body is that of a young man about 30 years of age, whose name, from a letter found upon him, is supposed to be Ivey.

Injured.

Compared with the number of those killed, the list of seriously injured passengers is comparatively small, the greater number sustaining mere bruises or shakings. The most seriously injured are the following, who now lie at the German Hospital.
John Belford, 58, Thorpedale-road, Hornsey-road, broken thigh and broken ankle.
Mr. Lavender, 42, Alington-street, Thorpedale-road, Hornsey-road; fractured leg.
J. R. Crudge, jun., address not stated; Broken thigh.
George Mills, 100, Doniton-road, Finsbury-park, broken legs.
A German gentleman, who declined to give his name and address; fractured legs and wounds to the head.
A stoker and guard were also conveyed to the Ger-

man Hospital immediately after the accident, having sustained cuts and bruises, but after having had their wounds dressed, and in the case of the stoker, his finger amputated, they were sent home.

All during the day the railway stations at Canonbury and Finsbury-park, and the mortuary in Holloway-road, were thronged with eager inquirers, who had, or thought they had, friends among the passengers in the three trains. At the station-master's office in Canonbury station was a heap of battered hats, umbrellas, and various descriptions of personal property belonging to the passengers, awaiting identification and claim at the hands of their owners or their representatives. The work of examining the bodies at the Holloway mortuary was accomplished shortly after 3 o'clock in the afternoon, by which time four of them had been identified. All of them were shockingly bruised, and, especially in the case of the guard, appeared to have been killed instantaneously. The faces of all of them were blackened by smoke and dirt, and the clothes of most of them were torn to rags. Great pools of blood stood about the floor, beneath the trunks in which the bodies were laid, and in places where the clothing had been torn, the gaping and bloody wounds which had been inflicted in the crash offered

A Ghastly Spectacle.

Many scenes of extreme painfulness occurred outside the mortuary. The anxious and agonised faces of those who were fearful that someone near to them was numbered among the dead, and of those who had found their worst fears realised, were pitiful to see. Much sympathy was manifested with the sufferers by a large crowd which had assembled outside the mortuary gates. It is impossible to ascertain anything definitely as to the cause of the accident, the company's servants maintaining (though it may be that few, if any, of them know more than any ordinary person) an intelligent reticence on the point.

One Explanation

which has gained currency, and to which credence is given, is that there was a hitch, or misunderstanding, between the signalmen at Canonbury Junction and Finsbury-park, by which the first train was brought to a stand in the tunnel, and the other trains were not blocked. But, whatever is the true explanation, there remains the fact that three trains, which started within a few minutes of each other, all collided in the tunnel.

Most important evidence was taken on Monday at the inquiry instituted by the Board of Trade respecting the accident, and it is in no way prejudging the issue of that inquiry to say that the cause of the disaster is now clear. It was a somewhat startling revelation to find a tunnel, situated on a short line over which many thousands of passengers pass day by day, controlled by telegraph signalmen using different codes, so that they did not quite understand each other; and confessing under cross-examination to varying interpretations of what is meant by the permissive and absolute "block" systems. Allowing for one or two minor discrepancies, which do not affect the main question, the evidence was clear, and was given in a straightforward manner. It was obvious that three trains were sent into the tunnel when it was not "clear." The first witness examined, therefore, was Henry Hills, signalman at Canonbury Junction, who declared repeatedly that he had never given "clear" to the Great Northern line. He received successive calls of "Be ready," and warnings "Train on line;" but to these he replied by giving "seven beats," which meant in the North London code that the line was obstructed or blocked, though not absolutely. This caution was not understood by the man on duty in the Great Northern as an absolute, but as a "permissive block." Almost the only important discrepancy between the two witnesses was whether it was true in the first instance that six beats were sent, which would have been taken as an absolute stoppage. Such was the effect of the employment of

Differing Signal Codes.

The question then arose as to two interpretations of the block system and the distinction between that which is permissive and that which is absolute. Hills, the North London signalman, understands them to be "both the same thing." He sent seven beats because he got no answer to six. William Hovey, on the other hand, the Great Northern signalman, understood the permissive block to mean that the driver should proceed with caution. The evidence on this point was so surprising, that it led Colonel Yolland to ask: "Is it permissible for a signalman to introduce the permissive block system on the Great Northern at his discretion?"—a question which elicited from Mr. Oakley the decisive reply, "Such a permission is not given to any signalman." Hovey confessed that he had to look to his instructions to see what the "seven beats" meant, that he had not time to read through all that was said, but he concluded it meant the "permissive block," and so sent the trains on—and he did this, as he declared, without receiving "Line clear" for either of the four trains between 8.30 and 9.14. All these trains were despatched into the tunnel, out of sight of each other, within fifteen minutes, and during the whole time, as Colonel Yolland pointed out, the indicator needle stood at "blocked," having never once moved. Yet this witness has been four years and a half a relief signalman, and has been four years and a half a relief signalman in all eleven years—and he was appointed in the former capacity because of his great experience and he himself admits that he received the seven beats on the Great Northern system he should "have stopped everything." On inquiry at the German Hospital, Dalston, it was stated that the injured were progressing satisfactorily. The only case as to which any apprehension might have been felt was those of Mr. Thomas Wilson, suffering from a compound fracture of the right leg, and Mr. J. R. Crudge, jun., who has sustained a fracture of the left leg and left collar-bone; but in neither instance had unfavourable symptoms developed. Mr. J. Belford, whose right thigh and ankle are broken; Mr. Lavender, with a confusion of the right knee-joint; and Mr. Baum, suffering from a fractured leg and a wound in the face, were each reported to be recovering speedily.

An inquest was opened on Tuesday by Dr. Thomas, in the Coroner's Court adjoining the mortuary, upon the bodies of five persons who met their deaths in the accident at Canonbury Station. Colonel Yolland sat as assessor. The bodies having been identified, and some formal evidence taken, the coroner said that, as Colonel Yolland was conducting an inquiry in this case on behalf of the Government, and being extremely well acquainted with railway matters, it seemed right that the inquiry he was prosecuting should be concluded, in order that so valuable a witness might come before that court on a future occasion; and therefore he proposed to adjourn the inquest until the Wednesday after Christmas. The wounded persons are progressing favourably. The doctors do not at present intend amputating Mr. Wilson's leg, nor will they do so if he continues to make satisfactory progress.

On Thursday, at the resumed Board of Trade inquiry by Colonel Yolland, Henry Hills, the North London Railway Company's signalman at the Canonbury Junction box, was recalled, and stated that an electric repeater, by which communication should have been possible with the up-distant signal, was not in working order on the morning of the accident. He did not know, he added, how long it had been out of order, nor had he reported its failure to the signal-inspector. Other evidence of a technical character was given, and the inquiry was continued and closed on Friday.

SALE OF PRIZE CATTLE.—Many of the prize cattle at the recent fat stock shows have been sold at high prices. The champion heifer of the Smithfield Show, belonging to Sir W. G. Gordon-Cumming, Bart., was purchased by Mr. Baker, Wisbech, for £100, and the same price was given for the reserve and champion ox, belonging to the same owner, by Mr. Crealand, of Great Malvern. Mr. George Shand Orders sold his magnificent first prize cross-bred ox at the same show for £60. The champion of the Birmingham Show, Royal George, belonging to Mr. Turner, of Brankentham, has also been sold for £75.

Owing to the severe frost on Wednesday the thoroughfares in the metropolis were very slippery. The wheels of an omnibus, drawn by three horses, in the Acerrington-road, commenced sliding, and, coming into contact with the kerbstone, the vehicle, which contained several passengers, was overturned in the street. The driver was thrown off on his head and died a few hours later. Other persons received cuts and bruises, and were severely shaken.

THE POLICE COURTS.

GRATIS TO ALL.—To Secure Health.—Send to JOHN HUGH MAI 275, Regent-circus, London, W., for a 48 page pamphlet on "O. Magnetism." Magnetism, by a gentle and almost imperceptible influence penetrates and permeates every fibre and tissue of the body, cleans the blood, and imparts to the entire nervous system a vigorous healthy tone.—[Adv.]

THE TRIAL OF GITEAU.

A Philadelphia telegram dated Monday, says a statement has been made that sixteen insanity experts who were summoned to Washington have consulted together and agreed that Guiteau is sane and legally responsible for crime, basing their view upon a close examination of the prisoner since the trial began. Some experts, however, still believe him to be insane, notably Dr. Spitzka, of New York, who was the first witness on Monday. Dr. Spitzka said that he made a special examination of the prisoner on the previous day, his decision being that the prisoner was insane, with a tendency to mental delusions and morbid projects. Guiteau, in his opinion, was a morbid monomaniac, with imbecility of judgment. He judged the prisoner to be insane before asking him a question. His eyes and facial expression were as well marked for sanity as he ever saw. Dr. Spitzka then answered the defence's hypothetical question that the man was probably insane. On cross-examination the witness had controversies with the counsel, but he adhered to his opinion of Guiteau's insanity. He thought he was morbidly egotistical, and that his act of shooting was a morbid project. The Court then recess, because of the illness of a juror. Guiteau made one outburst in the course of the day, in Dr. Spitzka's examination. Dr. Spitzka said that he thought that depravity might tincture morbid projects, but he did not think the prisoner's behaviour consistent with the theory that depravity was father of the act of killing the President. Guiteau thereupon shouted, "There was no depravity about this business. I think it a burning shame for the prosecution to harp on that word depravity. I have been

A Consistent Christian

all my life. Because I committed a sin to get rid of a woman I did not love, and owe a few hundred dollars, it is a burning shame for the prosecution to blacken my character." The bailiffs cried "Silence," but in spite of them Guiteau struck the table, shrieking loudly. "I am not afraid to go to the gallows if the Lord Almighty wishes me to go. I expect an act of God that will blow this Court and jury out of that window to protect me if necessary." Judge Davidson, said, with a disgusted air, "Oh, this pantomime business is getting played out." Guiteau shouted, "You are getting played out, and your theory of the prosecution is too." Guiteau then subsided. Notices have been sent to the warden of the jail to remove all prisoners from the wing where Guiteau is confined, the intention being to blow it up with dynamite, but not to endanger other lives than Guiteau's.

On Tuesday the cross-examination was resumed in the presence of a vast crowd. Dr. Spitzka described Guiteau's eyes as one of the strongest indications of his insanity. Mr. Corkhill handed the witness a slip of paper, with a diagram of the human head, asking him to point out the inequalities referred to yesterday. Guiteau shouted, "That accounts for it. A hatter came to see me this morning, and offered me a new hat if I would let him take my head. I got the hat, but you do not say for it." Mr. Corkhill: "Oh! no, the government does that." (Laughter.) The witness pointed out the inequalities. His testimony was then continued. Guiteau, who was immersed in newspapers, suddenly shouted, "I see

That Crank Talmage

had been doing some sensational business on this case. He had better go slow. I have my eye on several of these cranks. If they do not go slow, I will give them more free advertising. The high-toned portion of the American people are beginning to take a right view of this case." Mr. Corkhill sharply questioned the witness about several articles he had written, resulting in another worthy combat about the merits of expert testimony. Guiteau angrily interrupted, "It is the unanimous judgment of the American people that you are a humbug, Corkhill. This gentleman is a humbug, Corkhill. If your skull was not so thick, you would see it." The witness, thus encouraged, gave his opinion that an expert who will testify that the prisoner is sane is either a born idiot or a dissembler. "The closed Dr. Spitzka's testimony," said Judge Davidson, "then began their expert testimony. Dr. J. C. Gould, of New York, testified that the prisoner was not the case, is not evidence of

An Insane Delusion.

The father indicates weak vanity and inordinate ambition. An assertion by an individual that he was a victim of an insane delusion, because it was not an indication of a sane mind, is not evidence of insanity. "I do not," he said, "call that an uncontrollable impulse to commit a crime, where evidently the person is sane, but a moral operation of his mind and judgment." Dr. Barker answered numerous questions arising out of the prisoner's insanity, all indicating his disbelief in his insanity. Guiteau listened closely, and when the evidence was finished, said, "Doctor, I want to ask you whether when a man is impelled to commit a crime by an impulse he cannot resist is he sane or insane?" The witness said, "Where that fact can be proved, sir, it is insanity." Guiteau said, with an air of satisfaction.

"That is Just my Case, Sir!"

Then turning to Mr. Scoville, he said, "Come, that is the whole case. Let us have a recess. I am getting weary." Mr. Scoville's wife desired to ask a question, and Guiteau said, "Oh, you keep still. If all they can do is put up with me," Mrs. Scoville, however, asked the witness if a man could be born an idiot or an insane, but insanity was an acquired state after birth. Mr. J. C. Gould testified to Guiteau's exploits in the life insurance business. He never saw any evidence of insanity. Mr. William Copeland, being called to testify certain newspaper slips taken from the prisoner, Guiteau cried him with, "You are no lawyer, Copeland." Mr. H. Ketchum testified to knowing the prisoner when a lawyer in New York, relating an instance of Guiteau getting money under false pretences. Guiteau said indignantly, "I never got a cent from this man in my life. He was only a poor clerk, not a proper associate of mine."

A High-toned Lawyer

The prisoner constantly interrupted the witness, and finally, turning to Mr. Scoville, said, "You are getting weary, and I am getting weary. If you had any sense, you would see that it does not do our case any harm. You will be on trial as a 'crank' yourself if you do not look out. You are getting weary than Corkhill. Other witnesses testified their disbelief in Guiteau's insanity." On Wednesday, the trial was adjourned at an early hour of the proceedings, on account of the illness of a juror. During the testimony of a clergyman and others in his study, the prisoner exclaimed, "There is no insanity about me. I always speak to the point, and am always in my senses and witty. The question is, Was my moral agency destroyed when I was impelled upon the President? I am here for the vindication of justice and right." He violently abused a witness who swore that he was a dissembler, and having committed a breach of trust, calling him a liar and a miserable whelp. No attempt was placed on the prisoner, who was allowed, in principle, to do as he pleased, in order that the jury might be able to judge of him by his conduct.

Guiteau and the Jury.

In the course of his trial on Thursday, Guiteau said he hoped the jury would take exercise and keep in good health, for they were honest and intelligent men, and it would be a great misfortune if anything should happen to them. He wanted them to be careful. The evidence as to the prisoner's insanity was proceeded with amid the interruptions and abuse of the prisoner, who insulted the lawyers and also his sister.

Autographs.

After an interval, Guiteau said, "I have a little speech to make. I have given out over 1,000 autographs. It has been suggested that I should charge 25 cents for them. I decline to do this. We want money, however, for the trial."

Mr. Scoville delivered a lecture in Washington on Wednesday night before a small audience on the Guiteau case, in the course of which he declared that he had good

reason to believe that the prisoner would not live until the conclusion of the trial, meaning that he would be killed. Mr. Scoville feared that Guiteau would be assassinated while being conveyed in the prison van from the court to the jail, and added that he had good reason to speak as he did. A resolution expressing sympathy with Guiteau's family was adopted.

THE LIEUTENANT AND THE BARMAID. SAD SUICIDE.

On Thursday afternoon Dr. Thomas, the coroner for Central Middlesex, held an inquiry at the Providence Hall, Church-street, Paddington, into the circumstances attending the death of Miss Emma Cummins, aged 23, lately a barmaid in the employ of Messrs. Spiers and Pond, at the Criterion, in Piccadilly, who died on Monday last at a boarding-house, Oxford-terrace, Hyde-park, from poisoning, after having been decoyed away from her situation, the Criterion, and seduced by Lieutenant Ponsonby, of the royal navy. The evidence went to show that the young woman was induced by Lieutenant Ponsonby to leave her employ and cohabit with him, and that, in the course of the cohabitation, he communicated to her a loathsome disease, and then deserted her. This she preyed on her mind that she poisoned herself with phosphoric paste, and before her death wrote the following letter to her sister:—"I have made up my mind to kill myself, as I can't endure or live in this terrible pain. I may be ill for weeks, months, or perhaps years, or perhaps never get better. You know the worst now. You know the man who has caused all this, and do not spare him for his cruel conduct to me, for he has killed me. If this be a warning to persons who will be tempted to avoid such, I shall not die in vain. I hope that my father and mother will forgive me. It seems so hard that for one act of my life that I must close it. I only wish that the stuff will prove fatal. If I could only see a ray of light through all this darkness I would try and live." The jury were of opinion that the evidence of Lieut. Ponsonby should be taken, and the inquiry was adjourned until the 29th inst.

THE GENEALOGIST AND THE BREWER'S COLLECTOR.

In the Divorce Court, on Thursday, Sir James Hannen had before him the case of Dilmore v. Dilmore and Best. The husband, a genealogist, sought a divorce by reason of his wife's adultery with the co-respondent, a brewer's collector. Answers were filed denying the charge, and the respondent alleged cruelty against her husband, she praying for a decree of judicial separation. Mr. John Dilmore, the petitioner, said that he carried on the business of a genealogist at 141, Strand. He married the respondent on the 29th May, 1885. At that time he was a carriage proprietor. Of late years he had to complain of his wife's conduct. She was a devoted wife. He was 43 at the time of the marriage. Examination continued: He afterwards saw his wife at Exeter Hall with Best. He did not speak to her, as he was satisfied as to her conduct. Subsequently he again met his wife with Best, and knocked him down. He did this before any explanation was given. (Laughter.) Best got up and ran away. Witness pushed his wife down, and went in pursuit of the co-respondent. Some time afterwards, upon returning from business, he found that the whole of the furniture had been removed, and his wife had left. He denied he had been guilty of cruelty towards his wife. He never thrown boots or a bottle at her. He might have sworn at her, and called her bad names when she annoyed him. In cross-examination he said that his wife had about £200 a year. Had been a bankrupt, and was in difficulties after his marriage. He might have cursed his wife. The quarrels were both domestic and not money matters. Had beaten his daughter with a cane for rudeness. The furniture of the house was settled upon his wife. Best was his wife's next friend in a Chancery suit at her request. After he assaulted Best he "pushed" his wife, but he did not think she was going to fall down. From April to July, after this matter, although he lived in the same house as his wife, he did not speak to her. They occupied separate rooms. Mrs. Dilmore presented her petition in October. He filed his suit in the following December. Mrs. Wheeler, a landlady, of Gravesend, said that on the 3rd August, 1886, the co-respondent took apartments at her house. He engaged a double-bedded room and a sitting-room with a sofa-bed in it. Mrs. Dilmore, her aunt, and some children came to lodge there. Every Wednesday evening he slept there. Mrs. Dilmore would call him "dear." They had been in the bedroom together. Cross-examined: The aunt of Mrs. Dilmore was always with her, as also were the children. Two daughters of Mrs. Wheeler gave confirmatory evidence. One of them stated that on the occasion of Mr. Gladstone's visit to Gravesend in August, 1881, Mrs. Dilmore met Mr. Best on the pier, and he kissed her. Further evidence was given to the effect that after the co-respondent left his place of business he from time to time went to the house in Stockwell-park-road, where the respondent lived. For the defence Mrs. Dilmore was re-examined. For the defence Mrs. Dilmore was re-examined. She lived unhappily with her husband. He had used foul language towards her, and threatened her. She first met Mr. Best at church. On the occasion of the petitioner assaulting Mrs. Best, he afterwards threatened her on the back and knocked her down. She fell on her face, and was very much bruised. She gave a positive denial to the charge of adultery. In cross-examination she said that her conversations with Best were usually about religious matters. The co-respondent stopped at Yarmouth for ten days, at her lodgings. Her aunt and children were with her. A son and daughter of the parties gave evidence in support of the charge of adultery. They had never seen any impropriety of conduct between their mother and the co-respondent. Mr. Best, the co-respondent, was also called, and gave a positive denial to the charge of adultery. In the result his lordship came to the conclusion that the husband had not proved his case, and the wife had not established her charge of cruelty. In the circumstances the respondent and co-respondent must pay their own costs. The petitions were dismissed.

THE JURY SYSTEM.

On Thursday, at the Middlesex Sheriff's Court, before Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell, some complaints were made as to the present jury system. The Foreman said that for one case during the attendance a fee of 1s. each was paid, and on another occasion 1s. 8d. for five cases. He wished to know the reason. Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell explained that in cases of debt the fee to the jury was 1s., and in other cases "fourpence." Foreman: That is worse than dock labourers. (A laugh.) Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell: That is the law, gentlemen. Foreman: It is a pity the law is not altered. The jury generally complained that alterations were needed in the jury system, and hoped they would be considered. Another jurymen complained that in the room where they consulted there was no fire, and he should not go into the room again. Mr. Under-sheriff Burchell said that their wishes would be seen to. He begged to remind the jury that until recent times only light was to be provided for jurors, and not fire. He would do all he could for their accommodation, and a fire should be kept for them.

HUMAN PROGRESS.—At Hawarden Petty Sessions on Wednesday, there were revealed some remarkable cases of overcrowding in cottages at Pentreholod, Hawarden. In the case of Robert Millington there was only one small room in which he, his wife, and eight children slept. There was no ventilation, and the house had been condemned by the medical officer of health. The case of Thos. Roberts was still worse, the father, mother, and three sons, the eldest being twenty-four, and three daughters, the eldest twenty-one, slept together in one room. The third case was that of Joseph Cathelan, in which seven persons slept in a very small room. The magistrates ordered that the cottages should be vacated in a month.

POLITICAL ADDRESSES.

A large Conservative meeting was held at Ovestry on Monday in connection with the local Conservative Association. Lord Harlech presided, and among the speakers were the Marquis of Hertford, Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., Colonel W. S. Kenyon Slaney, and Mr. R. Benson. A resolution urging upon her Majesty's Ministers the necessity of using energetic measures for repressing the present commission of Ireland was carried unanimously, as was also one of confidence in the present members for North Shropshire. In speaking of the Act, the Marquis of Hertford said they were uneducated tenant farmers, with a natural bias against the landlords, and had he foreseen that such men would be appointed, he and many other peers would certainly never have voted for the Irish Land Bill. Lord Harlech described the state of terrorism existing in Ireland, from which country he has lately returned.

Mr. Labouchere, M.P., and Mr. Bradlaugh, M.P., addressed their constituents at Northampton on Tuesday. Mr. Labouchere expressed his determination to render continued support to Mr. Bradlaugh next session, when he will again endeavour to take his seat in the House. Mr. Bradlaugh said if allowed to sit next session he would introduce a motion respecting pensioners, and would ask leave to bring in a bill to substitute affirmations for oaths in cases where there are objections to an oath. He would vote against a motion for a grant of money to Prince Leopold on his marriage, and would also see all items paid to royalty under one head.

Speaking on Wednesday night at a meeting of the West Cumberland Conservative Association, held at Workington, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, M.P., described by Sir Wilfrid Lawson as a phenomenon in political dynamics, a windmill turned by water. He traced the present condition of Ireland to Mr. Gladstone by his refusal to renew the Peace Preservation Act. His opinion was that Mr. Gladstone was too impetuous, and wished to press urgency in Supply in order that he might play with the public funds as he thought proper. Turning to foreign affairs, he asked the authority of the Crown had been upheld in the Transvaal. It had not been vindicated, and three times we had to come to terms with the besiegers of the Boers. Sir Henry argued that the war of Conservatism was sweeping over the country. The barometer of Conservatism was steadily rising in Cumberland, as in all parts of England. Referring to the present state of the tariffs and the heavy duties upon what were really necessities, he argued that there ought to be some independent tribunal appointed in order that an equitable investigation might be made into the fiscal state of the country; while something, he further argued, must be done to protect the trade of the country from unfair competition.

Mr. J. E. Gorst, O.C., met his constituents on Wednesday in the large hall, New Brompton, Chatham, and addressed them on political affairs. He insisted that the present Government had damaged the interests of the country, whilst as an administration contentment to Ireland, and it had altogether broken down. With the measures now in force without a charge against them, and the Government, having admitted that they had broken down, had applied to the Pope of Rome and the Lord Mayor to come to their assistance. (Laughter and "No, no.") The Pope, however, would not interfere, for had he done so, the revolution in Ireland was strong enough to sweep the Roman Catholic Church away. Why did Mr. Gladstone hold Cabinet Councils and call Parliament together? Because the incense of the flattery of his supporters had obscured his vision. (Loud laughter and cheers.) Complaints had been made of the obstruction in Parliament. Any attempt to get the freedom of expression in Parliament would meet with the determined support of the Conservatives. Mr. Gorst, who had spoken with a running fire of interruption, then somewhat abruptly closed his address, without alluding to any further topic, remarking that the meeting were no doubt anxious to hear Lord Henry Lennox, who was well able to speak to them on naval matters. Lord Henry Lennox then addressed the meeting, and severely condemned the Government for its management of the naval affairs of the country, but his lordship's criticisms were received in anything but unanimous favour by the large number of dockyard workmen and persons connected with the royal navy present.

The Speaker attended the Lewes Fat Stock Show dinner on Tuesday, and in proposing the toast of the Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces, delivered himself of a lengthy speech on agricultural topics, from the price of corn to the supply of beef and mutton. The Right Hon. G. C. Bantick on Thursday night addressed a meeting of his constituents in Whitehaven. He said the last session of Parliament had been a very unsatisfactory one, if they took stock of what had been done. He was afraid they should be credited with a great loss. How were they to account for that? He accounted for it by the charge of firm. Lord Beaconsfield's Government had been credited with too much activity, but he was afraid that the present Government, after taking stock, would not only not be able to declare a dividend, but that they would be likely to appear in the Gazette. He found the cause of this unsatisfactory state of things to be instability of opinion. Under Lord Beaconsfield's administration they had a united Government, and they were supported, so far as regarded principles, by a united party. What was the case now? They found an agglomeration of opinion whose greatest character was its divergence and its diversity. The Government were supported now simply to retain power and office without any regard to the principles for which they should have cared. Mr. Bantick then proceeded to review the policy of the Government in regard to Ireland, and also its home policy, which he condemned as not being the traditional policy of other leaders of the country.

Mr. Langham Christie, M.P., on Thursday evening, at a full meeting of the Conservative Association, in the Corn Exchange, Lewes, at which a political address was delivered by Mr. H. C. Richards, barrister, in reply to the recent meetings of the Advanced Liberal and Liberal Associations of the borough. Criticising the revolutionary projects of a Mr. H. H. Brand, the speaker asked by the policy of the Liberal party, that enunciated by the late Mr. Bantick, or the views of Mr. Dodder, Mr. Brand, and Mr. Underwick. There was the usual vehement abuse of Lord Randolph Churchill, and the somewhat ridiculous proposition that if the country would only wait for the proper time and place, a full and complete defence would be forthcoming for the misdeeds of the Administration. Mr. H. R. Brand, M.P., said that the Liberal Government had shut the doors that their predecessors had left open. The door had closed on them in Afghanistan rather roughly in the Transvaal, and in Afghanistan they had slammed the door behind them to leave Russia to carry on its old intrigues, and the native races at the mercy of the different princes who could secure a footing in the cities of defence which our Government had so foolishly abandoned. The attempt to conciliate the agricultural interest without a relief to local taxation must fail, as it was not the abolition of primogeniture or entail which would help the farmers; and the drastic provisions of the Irish Land Bill seemed to frighten the Speaker when it was proposed that they should be applied to England.

Speaking at a Liberal meeting at Frome, on Thursday, Lord Carliford, in reply to a vote of confidence in the Government, said the state of terrorism in Ireland was intolerable, and until it could be crushed, no revival of peace, industry, and honesty in payment of just debts could be expected. To meet this crisis the Government were straining every nerve. How much worse must the state of things have been if only force, instead of remedial measures, had been resorted to! They should wait patiently for the working of the Land Act, and the Government and the landlords should unite.

THE VET. AND HIS STARVING FAMILY.—A veterinary surgeon, widely-known and respected in South Durham, named Robert Hall, was on Thursday charged at the Stockton Police-court with neglecting to support his wife and family. The wife had gone to the workhouse, and of his recent neglect through drink. It was maintained that the wife had a separate income, and it was said that £150 per annum was spent in the education of the children. The Bench ultimately ordered Hall to pay £1 5s. per week towards the support of his wife, and ordered him to pay the costs.

POLITICAL MEMORANDA.

Mr. H. Cazenove, late high sheriff of the county, has been selected as the Conservative candidate for the borough and hundreds of Aylesbury, in the place of Mr. Smith, who has declined to stand again.

At a meeting in Dalkeith on Tuesday night in connection with the opening of a Liberal club, the following letter to Provost Mitchell from Mr. Gladstone was read:—"Hawarden Castle, Chester, Dec. 5, 1881. My dear Sir,—As some time may still elapse before I have an opportunity of addressing my constituents in person, I avail myself of the occasion offered by the opening of the Liberal club at Dalkeith to send my hearty good wishes on the occasion, and to assure you and your conditors that I have not forgotten the marked encouragement which I received from the inhabitants of that town at the period preceding the last election in a degree nowhere exceeded in the county of Middlethian. The manifestation which then took place had no exclusive reference to an individual or an occasion, and I rejoice to see in the meeting about to take place a new indication of the enduring and unalterable attachment of the people of Scotland to the Liberal principles which the Administration they so largely contributed to bring into power has laboured to the best of its ability to promote. In no way could this celebration be made more effective than by its being placed under the presidency of one so respected as yourself.—I remain, my dear sir, faithfully yours, W. E. GLADSTONE."

Several weeks ago we stated that two members of the House of Commons had proceeded to South Africa to look particularly into the native question. We now learn that Mr. Fowler, M.P. for the City, after visiting the Cape Colony, where he saw Cetewayo, had gone to Natal from the Diamond Fields. At Pietermaritzburg he was the guest of Sir Evelyn Wood. He was expected to return to Cape Town in time to leave for England by the steamer M.I. for Haddington, arrived in Cape Town last month. He intends to remain in South Africa till Easter.

Sir Charles Dilke, whose return to Paris was lately announced in some journals, is still at his residence near Tonlon.

Sir Stafford Northcote will attend a meeting to be held at Exeter on Tuesday next, presided over by the Sheriff of Devonshire, for the purpose of raising a fund to assist the distressed Irish landlords and ladies.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed Mr. B. T. Williams, O.C., M.P., of the South Wales Circuit, to be the judge of the Glamorganshire County-court circuit, in place of Mr. Falconer, resigned. This creates a vacancy for the Carmarthen District of Boroughs; and it is said that Mr. Lewis Morris, author of "The Epic of Hades," and an active member of the political committee of the Reform Club, will be a candidate for the vacancy.—Alderman John Jones Jenkins, ex-mayor of Swansea, will, it is said, contest the seat for the Carmarthen Boroughs.

In view of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's declaration that he will contest East Cumberland at the first opportunity, the Carlisle Conservative Association has decided to bring forward for the borough Mr. Miles W. Mattinson, barrister, who opposed Sir Wilfrid at the last general election.

THE SERVICES.

The following have been successful in passing the examination for assistant clerkships in the royal navy:—Messrs. William H. Campion, Arthur Allen, Henry P. White, Harry J. Britten, and Ernest St. Galton.

The Lords of the Admiralty have appointed Lieut. Colonel Geoffrey Mairie, Royal Marine Light Infantry, to the command of the battalion of Marines stationed in Ireland, in succession to Colonel J. H. Maskery, recently promoted and appointed Second Commandant at the Chatham Division of Royal Marines.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have awarded to Captain James P. Thurbury, the commander naval pension of £45 a year, rendered vacant by the death, on the 30th ult. of Captain John G. Harrison.

The Osprey, 6 screw-corvette, 1,130 tons, 1,110 horsepower, which is being brought forward for commission at Sheerness, is to have her armament increased by a number of Gatling and Nordenfolt guns, and additional store-room is to be provided for ammunition.

The strength of the garrison at Sheerness which is reduced to a lower ebb than it has been for many years, will be further attenuated in March by the departure of the 8th Battalion of the 9th Brigade, under the command of Major Taylor, for India. Two of the batteries which will arrive from India early in the New Year are ordered to proceed to Sheerness.

The Dean of Westminster has been appointed acting Chaplain of the Queen's Westminster Palace.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF LADIES IN DISTRESS.

The following letters have been addressed by the Duchess of Marlborough to the Duchess of Leinster:—

"My dear Duchess,—I have received your kind letter requesting my aid for the Association for Relief of Ladies in Distress through the non-payment of rent in Ireland, and, as I have already had similar applications from Miss Chenevix Trench and from Mr. Edmund Dease, I should like to explain my reasons for hesitating to support what I feel to be a well-intentioned and benevolent effort, though inadequate to this present crisis. When two years ago we appealed to English benevolence for contributions we knew that the distress was caused by the unusually bad seasons, and that it would be relieved and the crisis ended over if we could only get funds to supply food and coal to the people for a time; but as regards your present appeal, we have no reason to hope the distress will cease, and I fail to see how temporary assistance can be of any use in meeting the present evil, or how private benevolence, though it may do something, will be sufficient unless decisive measures are adopted by the Government to avert the ruin which is impending not only over poor Ireland, but over whole families. It seems to me, if I may venture to say so, that nothing short of compensation from public funds will avail to save those whose incomes have almost disappeared in consequence of the action of the Land League, so long unchecked, and which, even if they recover the shock, will be again seriously impaired by the proceedings of the Land Courts. It is unnecessary to say more on this head, and I only passingly allude to it in order to prove my point, that the whole question is of far wider range than the mere eleemosynary assistance to one class of sufferers, however deserving of sympathy; and I am unwilling, by giving my patronage to the association, to imply my acquiescence in the limited grounds which your efforts are intended to cover, when, in my opinion, mere almsgiving is no remedy for the spoliation which the landlords of Ireland are undergoing. I cannot, however, refuse any request of yours, and I need not say I feel the deepest sympathy for the unfortunate sufferers. I send, therefore, a small subscription from the Duke and myself, only wishing it were larger, knowing as I do how piteous are the appeals for assistance from loyal and respectable persons. I shall be glad if you will make any use of this letter to explain my motives in not at once supporting the association.—Believe me, dear Duchess, yours affectionately, F. MARLBOROUGH."

"Blenheim Palace, Dec. 3."

"My dear Duchess,—I have received from Mr. Adair my letter to you, in which you inform me you had laid it before the committee of the Association for the Relief of Ladies in Distress in Ireland, and returning the cheque which accompanied it, the committee having declined, as I understand, to publish my letter, and assuming, I suppose, that the cheque was given conditionally upon their doing so. Now, as I do not wish to appear as a non-subscriber to the fund, I therefore again beg to place the cheque in your hands; but as the committee have declined the responsibility of publishing my letter to you, I feel compelled to take that step myself, and I hope you will forgive my adding this letter to the correspondence as a necessary explanation.—Yours affectionately, F. MARLBOROUGH."

"Blenheim Palace, Dec. 3."

CLIPPINGS FROM THE COMICS.

(From Punch.)

THE SUNDERLAND LIBRARY.

In ancient halls of Blenheim, where the Churchills' palace stands,
There was a wondrous library, that's famous in all lands,
John Spencer, Earl of Sunderland, sent out o'er all the earth
Through England and the Continent, to gather books of worth;
And there he stored them in the halls of national renown,
Within the palace that uprears its head near Oxford town.
But now the books he gathered there must all afar be spread,
By many an eager bibliophile to be purchased and be read;
The medieval missals, whereon ancient monks would paint,
With loving care, the countenance of martyr and of saint,
The wonderful editions of the Classics, and each tome
Of Aldus and of Elzevir must seek another home.
Yet one can scarce regret the deed, for every book will make
Its fortunate possessor gather others for its sake;
The volume the collector buys and adds unto his store,
A cherished prize, will surely make the owner long for more;
And so the books of Sunderland will in the years give birth
To other noble Libraries, the treasures of the earth.

SHAKESPEARE ON "GRIFFITHS' VALUATION."—Yes, the immortal bard knew all about even this. The first instance of Griffiths' valuation was when he gave his estimate of Cardinal Wolsey's character, and how highly Queen Catherine prized this Griffiths' valuation is known to every Shakespearean student. She could only wish for such an honest chronicler as Griffiths.—"Henry VIII." Act iv., sc. 2.

"None of the county gentlemen speak to him now," said Mrs. Ramsbottom, "because he's a Velocipede."
"A what," we asked. "A Velocipede," replied the lady, "a person who goes about shooting foxes, you know."
QUALIFYING A SWEEPING ASSERTION.—Sophie (after hearing about Frank): I declare I shall not believe a word a man says to me. They're all liars!—Beatrice: For shame, Sophie!—Sophie (regretfully): At least all the nice ones are.

HUMAN SOCIETY'S ORDER.—In future pigeon matches, in order to prevent all suffering to the winged and wounded, let only wood pigeons be used. Mechanical, of course.

"CONDITION."—Drill Sergeant (to recruit): Throw out your chest and keep in your stomach! A soldier should always have a full chest and an empty stomach!
NEW PROVERB FOR THE RECENT MILD WEATHER.—"One swallow does not make a Christmas!"

(From Moonshine.)

In the broad daylight of the nineteenth century the Pope has had the temerity to convert four sinful mortals descended into fully commissioned saints of the Roman calendar. In face of this—in face, too, of the disloyal behaviour of the priests in Ireland—there is talk of a British embassy to the Vatican. The same idea a few years back lost Mr. Gladstone many constituencies. He says now that he has renounced the future. Does he fancy that because he is giving up business the whole country will go with him to the sea-side? Better Bradlaugh.

A petition for the mitigation of the sentences upon the few out of many culprits who have been convicted of bribery at the last general election, is being numerously signed for presentation to the Home Secretary. We can imagine no stronger argument against the punishment of any politician than is contained in the fact, that politics have made Sir William Harcourt the person who has power to pardon him.

Last week, with a flourish of trumpets, Mr. Chamberlain issued as a Parliamentary paper the translation of an unofficial German pamphlet upon free trade. The one point which it showed conclusively was that German protection is unable to hold its own against Russian retaliation. In recognition for this ingenuous concession to its persistent contention, Mr. Bright's colleague is to be voted an honorary president of the Fair Trade League.

THE DOVE TOURNAMENT.

Stung by a stray and casual corn,
So writes the Daily T.;
And thus our English sportsmen mourn
Because another bird was borne
Beyond the boundary.
Bird after bird was neatly grassed,
Again the Daily T.
The fun grew furious and fast,
And rounds of cheering soothed at last
The pigeon's agony.
Ah! 'tis a very cheery sight—
And yet I scarce know why—
To watch the pigeon in its flight
Soar upward to the beacon night,
And fall on earth to die.
Ah! traps and guns! Let none deride
These implements of bad!—
For pigeons die—and ever died—
In order that they may provide
Good sport for lords and ladies.

(From Fun.)

A ROYAL PIER.

I'm a king, and, like Jupiter, dwell in the clouds,
My votaries flock to my presence in crowds,
Burning incense before me, and, seated or prone,
Imbuing the glamour that circles my throne.
Of the Nicotine race, my biographers state
I'm directly descended from Fumus the Great.
Now, mark me, I've not the slightest desire
To traverse the doctrine, "Where smoke is, is fire."
On the contrary, indeed, I'm prepared to insist—
Where there's been fire smoke's bound to exist,
From the days when Prometheus appealed to a star
For leave to return his extinguished cigar.
But the foul exhalations that float o'er the sea
From outgoing funnels owe nothing to me,
Nor those which from factory chimneys descend,
Olfactory organs to vex and offend.
Most houses which any pretensions assume
Devote to my culture a snug little room;
And in every train my supremacy is shown
By my having one carriage at least for my own.
Yet I would not my yoke should be laid on the necks
Of my lieges regardless of age or of sex,
And it fills me with anger to see, as I've seen,
Pipes stuck in the faces of boys of thirteen;
And that girls cigarette smoke I'm told is no myth,
Though I think they'd be better without them than with.

When you're told that my mission's to comfort and soothe,
You might deem me a doctor; 'tis partly the truth;
But the myriads which own my beneficent sway,
From the plains of the West to the wilds of Cathay,
Proclaim me a monarch, and point as a sign
To the tax on tobacco piled up on my shrine;
And of some States I'd ask, sir, between you and me,
Without it, pray where would their revenue be?
But to cut matters short, and to prove I'm not joking,
I am royal indeed, for my title is Smo-King!

SEND ONE SEND-ALL.—There was such a difficulty in deciding between the rival claims of the candidates for the Natal Governorship, that Lord Kimberley seems to have forthwith recommended her Majesty to "Send-all" (or rather to recommend Sendall to her Majesty), and still the colonists were not happy. Nor would it have suited them had his lordship resolved to send one instead of "Sendall," for the simple fact of the matter was the Natalians did not want anybody sent; the man they wanted was over in their colony already. And at last they have gained their "Wood" on way, the "Evelyn" which, let us hope, is merely nominal!

THE CHURCH AND STAGE GUILD.—The manager of the Sheffield Theatre has advertised for "fifty boys and fifty girls" to sing in the pantomime. Those who sing in church choirs preferred. This is one way of going in "religiously" for singing. We shouldn't be surprised to see an advertisement for the same number of children for a church choir, only those who don't sing in pantomimes, as, after going on the stage, we doubt if the Sheffield clergy would re-choir them.

STARE "JAM!"—In Fife, agriculturists are turning

their attention to the growth of strawberries and other fruits, with an ulterior view to jam. A clearer proof that our agriculture is going to pot—to the jam-pot, at any rate—could not be found. It shows, too, how strong the instinct of "self-preservation" is in us all when farmers take to preserve themselves. There was a time, though, when at the suggestion of jam they would have indignantly cried, "Jam! Jam!"

HAVE "PARSONS" TO WONDER the electric light now goes on swimmingly at the Savoy. Each lamp there is a "Swan."
(From Judy.)
THE ROYAL MARION.
H. R. H. has of honour a plentiful store,
Behold him Grand Master of Masons once more;
Far and near through the lodges great pleasure prevails,
For he's Prince of good fellows as well as of Wales.
EQUIVOCAL.—What do you call Lord Derby, Liberal or Conservative?—Humph! He should be a Conservative by tradition; but he is ambiguous; his speeches, eloquent as they are, may be best described as having the equivocal character of Whig or-a-tory.

(From Penny Folks.)
WE ARE A MERRY FAMILY.
(As sung by the great Guiteau Combination Troupe.)
"It may, therefore, be at once confessed that Guiteau's trial is one of the most successful judicial comedies that has been seen even in this undignified age."—Daily Paper.

Air—Obvious.
Was there ever such a splendid lark!
Was ever such a game!
If Guiteau's somewhat off his head,
Why, we are much the same.
To hear the jest and laugh so round,
Unchecked upon their way,
You'd hardly ever think, perhaps,
"Twas Murder made us gay!

SHORTS—Oh, we are a merry family,
We are a jolly sort,
Lawyers and defendant, too,
Witnesses and "court."
We chaff and clown the whole day long,
It's a one eternal spree;
And all creation says we are
A merry family.

We've grave mad doctors twenty-one,
All standing in a row,
With each a special deal to push—
It's such a comic show!
And then to see the culprit roll
His counsel on the floor,
Or bump his skull against the dock,
Might make a mouser roar.

Oh! we are a merry family, &c.
We sometimes sit on Guiteau's head
To keep the beggar still;
And oh, to watch him writhe about,
When tickled with a quill!
If we, grown tired of tricks like these,
For force a while abstain,
He'll rise and make a Scripture quip,
And set us off again!

Oh! we are a merry family, &c.
A MAGNIFICENT MARRIAGE MARKET.—According to the Marquis of Lorne, women are in such demand in Manitoba that any girl who goes there will be sure to have an offer of marriage "at least once a day." This may be "awfully nice" to the recipients, but it is not also "awfully embarrassing." Let us hope that an extended female emigration will soon set out for this land of bachelors, so that Manitoba will be turned into Man-and-Women-Idiotia.

ESTHETICAL.—Why was Prince Leopold's speech the other evening in reply to his brother's congratulation like a dodo?—Because it was a Waldeck-oration.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

(From the World.)

A young man of "great expectations" like Mr. T. P. O'Connor, the representative of Galway, might, and doubtless did, hope that the fruits of his eloquence in the States would be allowed to accrue to himself. On his arrival in New York he was taken in tow by a Land League Harum appointed by the Irish World committee, and exhibited to the admiring public at a fixed charge for entry, only receiving his travelling expenses and usual salary. He had to sport on platforms in company with Mrs. Parnell (an ordinal demanding double remuneration) to receive Ladies' Leagues, gifts of bouquets, laurel wreaths, and to be interviewed at all hours while a "treasurer" is appointed over him to receive the hard-earned proceeds. "Let the husbandman first eat of the harvest," is good Land League doctrine; and we do not wonder Mr. T. P. O'Connor, feeling aggrieved at its non-application in his own case, threatens a strike.

Hurrah for the "pure well of English undyed!" In his telegram of Monday, the Times Philadelphia correspondent speaks of Mr. Shaw, "a lawyer who once rented Guiteau's desk-room." Of this gentleman, Guiteau said, "I officed with him several months."

The incubations of Blowitz himself cannot, it seems, be set up at Printing-house-square without sunders, which make them ridiculous to the eye of every decently informed reader. Even the Arabian might have been expected to be acquainted with Gambetta's amiable and accomplished young protégé, M. O'Grady, who is almost as well known in London as at Berlin and Washington, and who has been received more than once as an honorary member in the great literary club in Waterloo-place. In the Paris correspondence of Monday's Times this young diplomatist is ingeniously introduced to our notice under the name, several times repeated, of Berard.

The Americans are generally credited with a love of euphemism, but they have also a perfect talent for coin-ing dreadful words. Among the queer remedies advertised—accompanied by most repelling portraits of their medical inventors—in all the American papers I find a specific against "bloating." What is bloating? Does it imply something dreadful in the way of dropsy, or is it Transatlantic for that not unamiable bow-window which our English elderly youth is permitted to assume in peace? The profile of my own form having undergone that common modification, I suppose I have bloated? When a pretty matron gives up the polka and sticks to the tender waltz, and loses her breath at that now and then, will she have begun to bloat? Do they bloat who are fat, in a word? "Fleishiness" is not a pretty Americanism; but who would not rather be fleshy than afflicted with bloating?

It is very generally bruited in Irish legal circles that further proceedings will be taken against some of Mr. Parnell's parliamentary colleagues. At all events, in consequence of the reports sent home of their speeches in the United States, and of other proceedings, by the authorised Government reporter, the law officers have been considering the advisability of indicting Messrs. T. P. O'Connor and Healy, for illegal conspiracy, on their arrival in England. The proceedings of the Chicago Convention, at which both hon. gentlemen assisted, but did not speak, are relied on as sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction for treasonable conspiracy.

It is probable, I hear, that the proposals of the Government for the reform of the procedure of Parliament will be met by a motion from the front opposition bench to refer the whole question to a select committee. This will, of course, be supported by the Irish members, and if carried it would shelve the whole subject for the session. It is now quite certain that the opposition, though professing to be real effectors of reform of the procedure of Parliament, is more than probable that Easter will be close at hand before the House of Commons has performed the necessary work of reformation.

I regret to learn that the architectural members of the Royal Academy are in a suffering state. Mr. G. E. Street lies, indeed, grievously ill—his friends are greatly concerned on his account; and Mr. Norman Shaw has been compelled for the present wholly to relinquish his professional engagements. Complete rest and abstinence from work are prescribed as the only remedies for a distressing mental and physical condition, resulting from too severe and prolonged an application to duty.

(From Truth.)

The question of arming police constables on night duty with revolvers will soon have to be reconsidered by the authorities. Burglars now habitually carry firearms, and it is not safe to expect policemen to continue their

endeavours to arrest them, at the risk of their lives, without at any rate giving them a defensive weapon.

To see four or five policemen dragging and hauling a help-sally-drunken man to the police-station is not an edifying sight. The drunken one's clothes are torn in pieces, and the victim himself is sadly knocked about. What seems much needed is the provision of stretchers in large numbers in every district, and not as at present, limited to the police-stations only. Why should not each public-house be compelled to have one in readiness? Or, one might be kept in each post-office, and no fire-brigade station should be without these appliances. Many a chemist, too, would be glad to allow a stretcher to be placed in his shop, ready for accidents.

I am glad that I am not in the Chester Workhouse, and that I am not subject to the jurisdiction of the Rev. R. Richardson. George Crib was charged before the Chester County Police-court with refusing to perform his task. Crib was 72 years of age, he had an ulcer on his leg, and one of his fingers was broken. He did not break his allotted tale of stones. The task-master knocked a couple of his teeth out to encourage him, and the medical man, who inspected his ulcer, thought that this ought not to hinder him from performing his task, and that he might hold the hammer with three fingers. Still Crib declared that he was given twice as many stones to break as he could manage, and for this atrocious conduct the Reverend R. Richardson sentenced him to five days' hard labour, after having vainly endeavoured to induce his brother magistrates to condemn him to ten days' imprisonment. I should be glad to know how many stones the reverend magistrate could himself break, with only three fingers on one hand, and an open ulcer on his leg, and what punishment the workhouse taskmaster is to receive for knocking out two of Crib's teeth? I do not think that I have ever read a more iniquitous sentence.

It is said that her Majesty has twice refused the request of the Bishop of Lichfield for a suffragan, a class of prelates not popular at Windsor.

America is sending us prime beef and mutton. American apples are more numerous in the English market than home-grown. America is now sending us "English" plum-puddings, ready for boiling. American houses have this year won the principal races in England and France. And now that America is bestirring herself about her navy, what will be left for poor old England to plume herself upon?

One case of "high price" at the Sunderland sale excited the utmost amazement amongst the experts in the room, as about thirty times the intrinsic value of the lot was realised. It subsequently transpired that the two agents to whom the bidding was confined were acting for the same collector, who, in his eagerness to secure the volume, had inadvertently given a double commission.

M. Blowitz, the Times correspondent in Paris, is undoubtedly a clever man, but having been converted from the Hebrew to the Catholic faith, he appears inclined to use the columns of the Times for the benefit of his present co-religionists. Having had a conversation with "an ancient Italian," who, in the course of it, informed him that there is a strong feeling in Italy in favour of coding Rome to the Pope, and having published this mythical conversation, he next proceeded to announce that its publication had caused intense excitement at Rome, and that the views of the "eminent Italian" were shared in by almost all his fellow-countrymen. Now, what does all this nonsense mean? That M. Blowitz, as the instrument of the Catholics in France, wishes that the Pope should be master in Rome. As to this, M. Blowitz and his friends are quite at liberty to think what they like. But between the opinion and the opinion of the Italians there is a vast difference, and I hardly think the Italian nation is likely to give up its civilisation, because M. Blowitz has been ordered by some French priests and French Bishops to assert that this is the universal wish of Italy. Really, the Times should not allow its columns to be used in this fashion by M. Blowitz and by M. Blowitz's father confessor.

Mr. Joseph Biggar, M.P., is about to lead to the hymeneal altar a charming young Irish lady, now resident in Paris. Mr. Biggar, therefore, has double reason to congratulate himself at not having been imprisoned with his colleagues. Let us hope, in the interests of "home rule," that he will keep clear of Kilmainham—at least during his honeymoon.

It is usually supposed that the Queen has laid by a great deal of money, and, acting on this supposition, it is asked why she cannot provide for her family? As a matter of fact, she has not. When Prince Albert died, many of the state departments were in debt; these debts have been paid off. Some of them—such as that of the Master of the Horse, for which £10,000 per annum is allowed—always have to borrow from the other departments, or from the Privy Purse. Although the Court does not entertain largely, the *mise-en-scène* is pretty much the same as it did. The Queen really does not put by as much as £20,000 per annum on an average of years. She has always given, I believe, £100,000 to each of her daughters who has married, and this has drained her savings.

I hear that the engagement of the Duke of Albany has produced a little passing unpleasantness at the palace, the prince having violated the rigid etiquette of our court by engaging himself before he had formally asked for, and obtained, the sanction of the Queen. The marriage is understood to have been brought about by the Grand Duke of Hesse. Maps of Germany have been in great request at Windsor Castle, as nobody had the vaguest idea as to the location of the principality of Waldeck. "It's a fine landing for her," is said to have been John Brown's remark.

The special feature of the investiture at Windsor last week was the astonishing speed with which the Queen got through the ceremony. The crosses and ribands were given and the knights created with a comparative rapidity almost beyond conception. Lord Sydney officiated as Lord Chamberlain, in the absence of Lord Kenmare. The exceptional excellence of the luncheon was doubtless due to the rigorous management of the kitchen and cellar arrangements during the last eighteen months. The visitors were rather pressed for time, as the train did not reach Windsor until five minutes before the luncheon hour, and when the dining-room was entered, it wanted a bare half-hour to the time that had been fixed by the Queen for the ceremony, which lasted about twenty minutes, little over an hour elapsing between the arrival of the visitors and their departure.

Lunch was served, as usual, in the household dining-room, which occupies the north-east corner of the castle, and the finest view in the whole place (except, of course, that from the Round Tower) is obtained from its windows. The most notable piece of furniture in this apartment is an enormous and beautiful chased punch-bowl of silver-gilt, which was made by Rundell for George IV., at a cost (to the country) of 10,000 guineas. It is placed on a stand under a glass shade, and has not been used, I believe, four times in forty years.

The ceremony took place in the white drawing-room, which the Queen entered from the grand corridor, accompanied by the members of the court. This fine room has been entirely redecorated during the past autumn, and is now seen to great advantage. The dining-room is the end apartment of this suite, and the visitors approached through the crimson and green drawing-rooms, the last of which contains the beautiful decorations by Chippendale. When the communicating doors of the three saloons are all thrown open, the effect is excellent, and the Queen, from her seat, can look straight through into the third room. The white drawing-room is always used for ceremonies of this sort and for *amusements*.

There was one unfortunate omission, as it had been forgotten that Dr. Bradley has to be invested as Dean of the Order of the Bath, an office which he holds as Dean of Westminster, the chapel of Henry VII. standing in the same relation to the Knights of the Red Riband, as does St. George's, at Windsor, to the Knights of the Garter. The new dean will now have to wait till February, unless the Queen honours him with a private investiture.

The Speaker, who is in excellent health and spirits, finished the day by going to the Alhambra to see "The Black Crook."

We learn that, under instructions sent to Natal by Lord Kimberley, Beji and fifteen other natives convicted of high treason after the Zulu war have been liberated. On November 4th they were informed that they had been liberated by "an order which came from the Queen." On being released they at once sought shelter at Bishopscroft, the residence of the Bishop of Natal.

FATAL POACHING AFFRAY IN CHESHIRE.

The fatal poaching affray which occurred in the preserves of Colonel Legh, of High Legh, Cheshire, on Nov. 7th, and resulted in the death of one of the poachers, named Joseph Jennings, salt boiler, living at Northwich, was again the subject of inquiry at Altrincham, on Wednesday. The charges of murder and attempt to murder which had been preferred against the keepers, Meach and Bicketts, were withdrawn, but William Percival, a young farmer, who had been assisting the keepers, and had at a recent hearing admitted having fired a pistol, was brought up for the wilful murder of Jennings. Charges of perjury were also preferred against Percival, Meach, and Bicketts. Evidence having been given, the magistrates committed Percival for trial on the charge of manslaughter, and Percival, Meach, and Bicketts on that of perjury.

A LADY HELP.

In the Divorce Court, on Wednesday, the case of Clark v. Clark was before Sir James Hannen. Mrs. Jane Elizabeth Clark, the petitioner, married the respondent on Sept. 29, 1864, at St. Stephen's, Shepherd's-bush. At that time Mr. Clark was a commercial traveller, but subsequently he became the proprietor of an eating-house in Short-street, Walworth. Five years after the marriage the respondent began to ill-treat his wife, and he had constantly ill-treated her. In 1879 a Miss Shargold, an orphan, came into the petitioner's service as a "lady help," and she became on friendly terms with the respondent. In consequence of Mr. Clark's cruelty and adultery, the wife prayed for dissolution of marriage. The case having been proved, a decree nisi, with costs, was granted.

DEFENCE OF VIVISECTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE PEOPLE."

Sir,—As you have quoted part of Dr. Cram's complaint about the use made of his works by the anti-vivisectionists in England, will you allow me to explain a little more clearly what he had to complain of? His work was a hand-book of dissection, as well as vivisection; but this little difference was overlooked, and a ghastly picture was taken out of it, of a dog with his throat dissected in a way which never could or would be done on the creature while living, but which was done after it was dead, in order to show the anatomy. This was reproduced, large size, and stuck about on the walls, labelled, "This is a living dog." Now, it was not a living dog, and could not be, and was not meant to be. But this is the sort of fair play the doctors get. It was just like another little dog of the same party. They have been proclaiming everywhere that the great physiologist, Sir Charles Bell, had written sixty years ago, that experiments upon animals were of little or no use. So he did, only they left out his last two words—"without anatomy."

This matter of vivisection is one about which everyone ought to know something, for directly or indirectly it concerns us all. No great scientific learning is needed to form a rational opinion; only the knowledge of a few facts, and a little common sense to use it with. There are two kinds of doctors: the doctor who guesses what is likely to be the matter with you, and tries a medicine to see if it will do you good, and if it doesn't suit, tries another, until he hits upon the right one, unless you happen to get well by yourself, or else die of his treatment; and there is the doctor who is familiar with the symptoms, recognises your complaint when he sees it, knows how it will affect you, and how to stop it in course. We call the first doctor a quack, and the second a scientific man. But the anti-vivisectionists had always had their way, and doctors would be quacks of this kind; for, instead of studying systematically and quietly in their laboratories, they would have to learn everything now by blundering over their patients until they found out how they killed the fewest of them.

There was once a cobbler of an inquiring turn of mind, who collected all the information he could get. One day he had a pain inside him, and he went to the doctor, who gave him some Glauber's salts. He took half, and put by the rest. By-and-by his neighbour, the blacksmith fell ill, and he too had an internal pain, so the cobbler produced his precious Glauber's salts, and dosed the blacksmith with them; but the blacksmith died next day. The cobbler went home and made a note of it: "N.B.—Glauber's salt cures cobbler's, but kills blacksmiths." This is an amusing story, and sounds very absurd; but if doctors for the physiologists from whom they learn are not to be allowed to study the effect of medicines before they use them on human beings, it is the kind of doctoring we shall get, except in so far as we are saved from it by what was done in this country before physiology took her right hand chained up, and what is being done in other countries where she is free.

This is a practical question, and I should like to put it as such to practical men. A surgeon thinks that he could save lives and limbs by a new operation, or that he could do an old one in a better way; he cannot be sure until he tries, and, if he is mistaken, he will do more harm than if he had treated the case in the old fashion. A doctor thinks that a new drug or a new mode of treatment might cure a certain disease; but, if he does not cure, he may kill the patient. Now, what are they to do? Put a couple of dogs under chloroform, and try the operation on them; give some rabbits the disease, and then try your best to cure them, say the doctors. No, say the anti-vivisectionists; wait till you have some sick man or woman in your charge, with their friends begging you to do your best to save their precious lives, or else some lonely hospital patient, with no friends at all; and make your experiment upon them. I only wonder if they would say the same with their own lives, or those of their wives or husbands or children depending on the skill and kindness of the doctor, whom they now treat as if he were a heartless torturer.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

COMMON SENSE.

It is stated that any alarm respecting the disappearance of Viscount Boyle is groundless. Upon leaving the barracks on Sunday he proceeded to London, where he has since been staying with some friends.

WHY BURN GAS?

CHAPPUIS' REFLECTORS

DIFFUSE DAYLIGHT

AND

SUPERSEDE GAS IN DAYTIME.

FACTORY: 69, FLEET-STREET.

S.R.—PROSPECTUS SENT ON RECEIPT OF STAMPED ENVELOPE. ADDRESS: P. DEPARTMENT.

MUSIC.

A somewhat important date in the history of English music may, as the *Times* suggests, be marked by the speeches delivered by Prince Leopold, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince Christian at the soirée of the Manchester Athenæum. It is, perhaps, the most determined spur towards the formation of a National Conservatorium that has been made since the members of the royal family practically began working at this idea in 1878. Hitherto their success has not been particularly brilliant, notwithstanding the fact that the Prince of Wales put heart and soul into the business and stuck to it with the pertinacity of a true Briton. They failed to obtain the consent of the Royal Academy to amalgamate with the South Kensington Training School, and they have as yet been unable to obtain from the Privy Council the charter for the formation of a Royal College of Music. In fact, the time has been slipping away so unconsciously, and yet so fast, that folks have been beginning either to forget all about the past negotiations, or else to imagine that the entire scheme was being allowed to sink into oblivion.

Hence the Manchester demonstration. Music was not essentially the topic for the occasion, but the opportunity for bringing the weight of Prince Leopold's voice and influence into play was too good to be missed. Hitherto the student prince, accomplished amateur as he is known to be, had done nothing to directly aid the cause taken up by his illustrious brothers; his opinions would naturally have to be expressed at some time or other, so what time better than the present, and what place better than Manchester, with its rich musical population? Hitherto, likewise, London has not displayed any very practical interest in the scheme for the foundation of this Royal College of Music, if, indeed, it knows very much about the whole affair, and nothing would be so likely to rouse that interest in the metropolis as the sight of an institution of such national importance receiving its first public acknowledgment and help in a provincial city. Two birds, therefore, were killed with one stone, and it cannot be denied that the feat in this instance was accomplished in an exceedingly graceful and effective manner.

Prince Leopold did not mince matters. Although announced to deal with the æsthetic and historical side of music, he very soon struck the key-note of his address by declaring the object of his presence at Manchester to be "to urge the importance and desirability of establishing a National Conservatoire or College of Music." And this was really the subject kept in view all through his royal highness's admirable account of the rise and progress of English music—a speech that every native musician and amateur will do well to study and ponder over. The prince proved, conclusively, that the English people are, by tradition, spirit, and natural gift, as musical a nation as any in existence, and he traced with perfect clearness the growth of alien composers and performers in our midst, until English music, although never "extinguished," has become "overlaid by this invasion of foreigners." He complained bitterly of the indifference displayed towards music by our great intellectual men, and finally made an eloquent appeal for the establishment of the same system of musical education in this country as there exists in Germany.

I need not follow the windings of the capital speech made by the Duke of Edinburgh. His subject-matter was to have been "the influence of music on mankind," but it speedily developed into a dissertation upon musical education and an appeal for State aid; while Prince Christian pretended to do no more than give an account of what had been done, and what it was intended should be done in connection with the new institution. The whole of the evening's discourse had one and the same aim, viz., to bring into prominence and notoriety a scheme that will require a vast amount of public agitation, if it is ever to be brought to a head and to be made of the lasting utility that its promoters desire. Nothing better could be wished than that this effort should succeed, provided that the ultimate basis of the Royal College of Music is thoroughly complete and liberal in character. A few thousands a year out of the public revenue will indeed be well spent if the outlay results in an institution that can afford the means for fostering and developing every branch of musical art among native possessors of talent, regardless of the depth of their pockets. Only, let us make sure that this institution is governed by able and practical men, that its direction does not savour of cliquism, that its funds are wisely handled, and that it provides the best body of teachers that money can obtain.

The Students' Orchestral Concert of the Royal Academy of Music took place at St. James's Hall on Thursday evening, too late for detailed notice this week. This event usually marks the close of each term, and is made the occasion for a display of the best rising talent in the Academy. As such, the orchestral concert serves an admirable purpose, and so do the fortnightly recitals given in the "Garden-street" room, which give the pupils an excellent chance of gaining the confidence of a large audience. But I certainly fail to see the use of keeping on any longer the absurd performances given from time to time by the "Operatic Class" at the Academy. The idea of forming this class was in itself good, but the thing has never flourished, and I believe I am right in saying that at the present moment it consists of no more than eight pupils! It might be well to go on struggling with the class, but in reality it does anything but afford its members that preparation and experience for the operatic stage which it was intended to give. To be candid, in its present shape the class does more harm than good, and that the performances to which I have alluded are of no earthly use is proved by the ignorance of the most elementary rules of the dramatic art betrayed by all who take part in them.

There was a select attendance, on Wednesday afternoon, at Miss Janotha's pianoforte recital at St. James's Hall. It would be a work of supererogation to dilate upon the exquisite fashion in which the remarkable young pianist executed the pieces set down for performance. Most successful, as usual, in her interpretation of Chopin and Schumann, she nevertheless gained an uninterrupted series of successes, and not least of all in a value, the autograph of which is "J. Janotha."

About two of last week's concerts I must say a word. One was the Sacred Harmonic, at which Professor Macfarren's oratorio, "St. John the Baptist," was given. The work once more had a glorious reception, and fully maintained the high position it has taken in the domain of oratorio since its production eight years ago. The performance was in every way enough to confirm the opinions expressed concerning the improvement observable in the chorus at the opening concert of the Sacred Harmonic season. The principals and orchestra also did their work irreproachably, and Sir Michael Costa conducted with his customary tact and skill. The other concert was that given at the Palace on Saturday, which was notable for the debut of a violinist of reputation and ability, M. Marsick. Unfortunately he chose for his *cheat de valde* a concerto by Viëtuze, for which no one dared, but enough was heard to determine the excellence of the player, who will doubtless be seen often during the course of the London season.

The scale of prices to be charged for hearing "Der Ring der Nibelungen" at Her Majesty's, is very high, and, truth to tell, the more I think of it the more I wonder where the money is to come from to make the series of four "cycles" that are to be given next May result in a pecuniary success. Tickets for a single performance will not be issued; one must pay to hear the whole tetralogy, or nothing, and this means £7 for a stall, £5 for a seat in the grand circle, and so on, down to £1 for a gallery seat, which will not be reserved. The prospectus that has just been issued announces nothing beyond what my readers already know, except that Herr Wagner will superintend the final rehearsals and be present at the final performances.

The first performance of "Samson" by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society was postponed from Wednesday to Thursday night. The vocal soloists were Madame Lammens-Sherington, Madame Patev, Mr. J. Mass, Mr.

A. Thompson, Mr. F. Barrington Foote, and Mr. F. King. Mr. Barnby conducted, and Mr. Stainer was the organist. The work was performed with Mr. E. Proust's additional accompaniments.

The Popular Concerts discontinue this week for the usual Christmas recess. The programme on Monday included Schubert's ottet and Mozart's pianoforte trio in E major; that of Saturday (instrumental portion) was to be selected from the works of Beethoven, including the Grand Trio in B flat and the "Moonlight" sonata. It is announced that Herr Joachim will make his first appearance for the season on Feb. 20th.

The annual concert in aid of the Post Office Orphan Home takes place at St. James's Hall on Saturday, under the direction of Sir Julius Benedict. A long and attractive programme is to be gone through.

THE THEATRES.

CRITERION.

Mr. Gilbert's new comedy, "Fogarty's Fairy," was produced on Thursday night, at the Criterion, with brilliant success. Mr. Gilbert's hero is a certain Frederick Fogarty, a young surgeon without practice, who is on the point of marriage with Jennie Talbot, the daughter of a wholesale cheesemonger. As his bride is exigent concerning the past of her husband, she will not marry him if he has been guilty of the slightest flirtation with another. Fogarty tries to pass himself off as the most blameless of his sex. By ill-luck an old sweetheart turns up on his wedding morning and mars his every prospect. Rejected by the girl who had already donned her bridal gear, and disappointed of the substantial dowry he contemplated, our hero conceives himself, not without cause, the unluckiest of his sex. In his despair he calls upon the benevolent fairy, who, in olden times, used to interfere for the purpose of helping those whom they took under their protection. In answer to his appeal, the fairy Rebecca appears. Upon certain conditions she will help him. She will blot out from his existence the indiscreet flirtation which has caused his trouble, but with it she must blot out all the events that have sprung from it, and give him the position he would have occupied had his life from this period when he wishes it changed been as it would have been. This offer is ultimately accepted. Fogarty then finds his surroundings utterly different from what they have been, and himself a different man from what he thought himself. His memory is gone, and he is in the words of the Irish ballad, "Not himself at all." Out of this state of affairs spring some most comic complications. To describe these is as difficult as it is needless. It is sufficient to say that bewildering droll complications are received by the public with delight, and that the result is triumph. A large share of the honour, the lion's share indeed, falls to Mr. Gilbert. Something must, however, be allowed to an interpretation which is excellent throughout, and in certain characters is unsurpassable. Mr. Charles Wyndham's Fogarty is a capital piece of acting. Miss M. Rolke is delightfully serious and convincing in the rôle of the heroine, and Miss Rose Saxe gives the fairy a species of feminine mock-heroic air which is thoroughly well conceived. Mr. George Giddens, a careful and excellent actor, is seen to advantage, and Mrs. John Wood makes much of a part, which is too small for her signal abilities. Mr. W. Blakey, Mr. Maltby, Mr. Astley, Mr. Redwood, Mrs. A. Mellon, and other public favourites, take parts more or less prominent, and the whole performance is masterly in ensemble and perfect in spirit. If "Fogarty's Fairy" is not one of Mr. Gilbert's best pieces, it is one of the drollest.

HAYMARKET.

In the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and a brilliant audience, a performance of Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer" was given on Thursday afternoon. The proceeds, which must have reached a large amount, are to be devoted to the Royal General Theatrical Fund. Under these conditions the whole of the artists concerned offered their services gratuitously, and the theatre was also lent, free of expense, by Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft. More pains than are ordinarily taken with performances for one day only, had been taken, and the performance of this admirable comedy, the best that has been given for some time, was a special feature. It was the first appearance on the London stage of Mrs. Langtry as Miss Hardcastle. Mrs. Langtry has naturally much to learn. She is a clever woman, with a distinct vein of comedy, and very little practice will probably serve to make her a useful actress. That her appearance was singularly attractive will readily be believed. Her stage presence and bearing are decidedly good, and there were portions of her performance that were altogether delightful. If, as has been stated, Mrs. Langtry may make a definite appearance on the stage, her success is scarcely doubtful. Her first performance was a distinct triumph, and won for her enthusiastic recognition. Mr. Kyle Believ might claim to be a typical young Marlow. Points in his performance were equally novel and subtle. Mr. Macdonald's Mr. Hardcastle was quite excellent, and Mr. Lionel Brough's Tony Lumpkin produced roars of laughter. The Miss Neville of Miss H. Creswell, the Mrs. Hardcastle of Miss Sophie Larkin, Mr. Robert Brough's Sir Charles Marlow, and Mr. Crawford's Hastings, were noteworthy portions of a capital cast.

SADLER'S WELLS.

For the few days intervening between the present term and pantomime season, Mr. Chatterton has revived at Sadler's Wells "Amy Robarts," a version by Halliday of Scott's "Keathworth." With Miss Neilson as the heroine, the piece was the most brilliant success of the well-remembered management of Drury Lane. As a spectacular piece it has high merit, and of this advantage is once more taken, the piece being remounted in a manner which evokes the warm admiration of the patrons of the theatre. Its story is also fairly dramatic, and to this justice is done by competent interpreters. Miss Emily de Wille, a debutante, assumed the rôle of Amy Robarts, and was fortunate enough to secure a warm reception. A little constraint of manner requires to be corrected, and this young actress, who has an admirable appearance and presence, together with distinct capacity, is likely to make her foothold upon the stage secure. Mr. E. Price was seen to advantage as Leicester. Mr. W. McIntyre made a sufficiently grim villain of Varney. Miss Page as Queen Elizabeth, Mr. Selby, and other actors, acquitted themselves well, and the entire revival was a success.

A special morning performance of the spectacular fairy opera, "Black Crook," and the grand ballets will be given at the Alhambra on Boxing-day, Monday, December 20th. It is announced that this is the only morning performance that can be given of "The Black Crook."

In Paris, as in London, a cessation of novelty has given warning of the approach of Christmas. The Variétés alone has gone in advance of other theatres, and produced its "Grande Heroïne," which differs little from other pieces of this class, and has met with complete success.

Messrs. James and Thorne have at length dissolved partnership, and the management of the theatre will now lapse to Mr. Thorne. Mr. James will join Mr. Irving's company, and appear at the Lyceum on Boxing-night in his original part of Our Mr. Jenkins, in "The Two Roses."

Very energetic attempts are made by managers to hush the public into the security, not to say apathy, which prevailed before the horrible fire at the Ring Theatre, Vienna, came to disturb its repose. It is no use mincing matters, however. That a calamity so horrible as has happened in Vienna has not taken place in London is due to

chance alone, and in no wise to precautions. Sooner or later, and sooner rather than later, a like catastrophe is bound to take place here. The combination of stupidity and carelessness constantly witnessed behind scenes at a theatre is inconceivable to those who are not familiar with it. Meanwhile all causes, even to the vanity of the actor, combine to add to the risk. Few actors will interrupt their performance to remove a candle which threatens to set some article of furniture alight, and which interferes far more by its influence upon the audience with their performance than could the simple and natural action of putting it straight. When a fireman once comes on the stage during a performance to stamp out the commencement of a fire, the actor in possession of the stage is said to have cursed him for his impertinence. The whole question of the standpoint of the public, not from that of private interests, I have a great regard for many theatrical managers, but I would rather see their profits reduced by half than have a calamity in London such as may any day occur. I hope before long to announce that action with regard to this matter different from any that has yet been taken has commenced.

DORIMONT.

BRITANNIA.

The dramatic season at the above-named theatre closed on Monday night, the occasion being the benefit of the proprietress, Mrs. S. Lane. The programme included the two-act drama "A Wife, yet No Wife," in which Mrs. Lane and Mr. G. H. Macdonmott cleverly enacted the principal characters; a ten-act variety entertainment, in which Mr. A. G. Vance and other male and female music hall artists took prominent parts; and a new comedietta entitled "Fido de se," the author of which letter is a Mr. Bower. But the principal attraction of the evening—the majority of the audience was what is termed the "Britannia Festival," a scene in which each individual member of the company appears in the dress and make-up of the character she or he considers they have acquitted themselves best to their own satisfaction in the various pieces that have been produced during the year, the curtain on rising disclosing the company seated in a semi-circle on the stage, each of whom alternately approaches to the footlights and delivers a few lines or sentences appropriate to the character assumed, receiving demonstrative recognition from the audience in the way of applause or by practical compliment in the shape of floral offerings and presents of useful articles contained in boxes, which are thrown upon the stage at the feet of those for whom they are intended. To give an idea of the curiously practical nature of the contents of some of these packets, the company will not require to purchase any more braces; another has not bought collars; a third has had his number of shirts considerably added to; a fourth upon one occasion was presented with a packet of a pungent condiment he is said to be fond of; while most of them can boast a goodly collection of fancy slippers. The contents of the boxes presents thrown to the ladies, though of a more ornamental character than those bestowed upon the gentlemen, are in the majority of cases none the less useful. This practical realism, it may be added, at times extends in a gracefully complimentary manner to the stage; thus, when Mr. Macdonmott, in the character of the gallant Victor Berrielle, wishes to be alone with his sweetheart, the coin which he gave Mrs. Lane (who enacted the rôle of a faithful yet inquisitive servant) as a gentle hint to take her departure for awhile, was a sterling sovereign of the realm—an incident which caused a slight flutter of excitement among the female utilities. Although the shower of "box-offerings" on Monday night fell short of that of previous occasions, the audience was if anything fuller than usual, several persons having to put up with seats at the wings of the stage. The popular proprietress, as she bowed her acknowledgments before the immense audience in Mephistophelian costume, received a most gratifying reception; as did also the veteran Mr. Reynolds, who has acted at this theatre for over thirty years. The other members of the Britannia company received their due meed of recognition.

FORTHCOMING PANTOMIMES, &c.

Among the forthcoming Yuletide novelties announced to be produced at the London theatres, and places of entertainment in and around the metropolis, are the following:—

COVENT GARDEN.—"Little Bo-Peep," pantomime, written by W. Young. It will contain some specially contrived "children's scenes," in which a juvenile chorus of 100 voices will take part. DORSET-GARDE.—The Christmas annual is, as usual, provided by Mr. E. L. Blanchard. Under the title of "Robinson Crusoe," the adventures of the famous mariner will be illustrated, with incidents in his career not hitherto made known, including an elaborate panorama of the Thames. Miss Fennie Leslie, Mr. J. Fawn, Mr. Roberts, Mr. H. Nicholls, Mr. C. Lauri, Mr. H. Jackson, Miss Amelia, Madame and Monsieur d'Auben, Luna and Stella, the Katti Lanner troupe of children, and Mr. H. Payne, will take prominent places in the action.

SADLER'S WELLS.—"The Forty Thieves," pantomime, for which Mr. Chatterton has engaged a strong company and provided new and elaborate scenery and effects. GAIETY.—The burlesque of "Aladdin" will be reproduced, in which Mr. Terry will make his re-appearance. DORSET-GARDE.—"Sinbad the Sailor," pantomime, adapted by J. Douglas. Five grand moving scenes, in which the spectacles and pageants will take place, have been painted for this by R. Douglas.

BRITANNIA.—"The Enchanted Dove," pantomime, arranged and produced by Mrs. Lane, and in which she will play a prominent part, assisted by a strong burlesque company.

SURBIT.—"Mother Bunch," pantomime, written and arranged by H. Spry and G. Conquest, son. The scenery and effects will be entirely original, and Messrs. Conquest and G. H. Macdonmott will play important parts in the opening. The time-light arrangements and illumination will be entirely new.

GREENIAN.—Mr. H. Spry will write the pantomime for Mr. Clark, and it will be produced on a scale quite equal to that of last year. Messrs. H. Campbell, A. Williams, Miss Victor, and other artists of repute, will take part in it. Two of the scenes will be novel and unique.

MARYLEBONE.—"Aladdin" pantomime. PAVILION.—"Dick Whittington," pantomime, produced by I. Cohen. Miss Julia Rosenberg and the Alexander family will figure prominently in the opening. ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.—"Little Jack Horner," pantomime. Mr. W. Laburnham, will play in the opening.

CANTERBURY.—"Cabal," historical and spectacular ballet, by A. Thompson, six of the scenes painted by Messrs. T. Grieve and Ben. A. Calcutt, and H. Norman. AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Christmas Fete and World's Fair.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—"The Children in the Wood," pantomime, produced by Messrs. W. R. Oman and O. Barrett. The Martinelli Troupe will take part in the opening and in the harlequinade. ALEXANDRA PALACE.—"Hop o'my Thumb," pantomime written by F. W. Green, and produced by G. Conquest, jun. A novel feature in this will be the panorama, 100 feet long, representing a journey to Ogland. HENGLEY'S CROQUE.—Here, to delight the children and country visitors, the incidents in connection with "Cinderella and her Fair Slipper," will furnish the subject of the Christmas and New Year's spectacle.

The amateur performance in aid of the London Throat and Ear Hospital, by the Philothesians, at St. George's Hall, on the 10th inst., should prove a success financially, as the audience was an unusually full one, considering the prices of admission. Among the individuals who deserve commendatory mention for the parts they took in the performance, are Miss Webster, Mr. P. Owen, Miss H. Maude, Mrs. L. Brown, Mr. G. H. Phillips, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Lowe. Minor parts were fairly well enacted by Messrs. Gunn, Waterson, Hallward, Purkiss, and Wood. Some enjoyable music was played during the interludes by the Amateur Orchestral Society, directed by Mr. Deane.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Turners' Company.

On Thursday the freedom and livery of the Turners' Company were conferred on Sir P. Bramwell, F.R.S., the vice-president of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and Mr. Owen Roberts, clerk to the Company of Cloth-workers.

Fatal Collision off the North Foreland.

The *Blanche* steamship, of and from London for Dunkirk, put into Ramsgate on Thursday morning with four compartments stove, and full of water, having run into and sunk the *Cynhaiarn* (schooner), off the North Foreland. The captain, his wife, and the crew of the *Cynhaiarn* are on board the *Blanche*; but one boy of the *Cynhaiarn* was drowned.

The City of Glasgow Bank.

A meeting of the City of Glasgow Bank committee has been held, at which a proposal was submitted that a company should be formed called the *Assets Company* (Limited). If this arrangement is carried out the creditors of the bank will immediately be paid in full.

Meeting of the Judges.

On Thursday afternoon a conference of the judges was held in the private room of the Lord Chancellor at the House of Lords, and was attended by nearly every member of the Bench now in town, the courts rising early for the purpose. The object of the conference was the discussion of certain new orders and rules of procedure in the Courts, and it is understood that the shortening of the long vacation also formed a topic of the conversation among the learned judges. Their lordships were in conference some hours.

The Loss of the Solway.

The Board of Trade inquiry into the disaster which happened to the steamer *Solway*, on the 16th ult., near Dublin Bay, when nineteen persons were burned to death in consequence of the naphtha or petroleum on board taking fire, finished on Thursday. The Court finds that neither the owner, master, or officers were to blame but commend the conduct of the latter.

The Duke of Connaught.

It is understood that it is by no means unlikely that the Duke of Connaught will be allowed to carry out his desire of visiting India, and that he is likely to be selected for an Indian command.

The Marquis of Lorne.

According to present arrangements the Marquis of Lorne will remain in Canada for another three years, as his lordship has made known his desire to put in his full term as Governor-General, unless recalled to England to take up some other appointment.

Fatal Fire in St. Pancras.

A terrible fire, not only resulting in the death of Mr. John Millward, an aged member of the legal profession, but destruction of deeds and papers relating to property, took place at 30, Charrington-street, Oakley-square, at an early hour on Wednesday morning. The fire was not extinguished till the lower part was completely burnt out, and when the debris was sufficiently cool the body of the unfortunate Mr. Millward was found in the midst so dreadfully charred as to be almost undistinguishable as that of a human being.

Another Jewel Robbery.

The premises of Rankin and Co., Jewellers, Belfast, were on Wednesday morning entered by burglars, and watches and jewellery abstracted to the value of £1,000. The more valuable articles of the stock were kept in a large iron safe, which the burglars removed from its place, but failed to force open. The police are in search of a man of gentlemanly appearance, who has been stopping at the principal hotel in the town for some days past, and who on the previous day obtained the keys of the rooms over Messrs. Rankin's shop under pretence of renting them. He left the hotel early in the morning.

A Young Lady Suffocated.

On Thursday morning the eldest daughter of Captain Stewart, West Park House, St. Andrew's, was found in bed suffocated by black smoke from a coke stove, which heated the billiard-room adjoining the young lady's bedroom. Every effort was made by the medical men who were summoned to restore breathing, but without success. The time of the above communicated with that of the bedroom of the deceased, and the gas generated had, owing to the absence of any current to carry it away, descended and filled the bedroom with smoke. The young lady was about 20 years of age.

The New Tay Bridge.

At a meeting of the Dundee Town Council on Thursday, the crisis of the new Tay bridge undertaking was considered. The members were unanimous in expressing an opinion that it would be oppressive for the Board of Trade to insist on the complete removal of the old bridge, which might be utilised for goods traffic. A committee was appointed to make a representation to the Board of Trade in the hope that they would succeed in removing the obstacles to the speedy rebuilding of the bridge.

Strange Suicide of a Domestic Servant.

Dr. Thomas, on Thursday, at the Paddington Police Station, held an inquiry respecting the death of Rosa Knight, aged 33 years, a domestic servant.—Louisa Knight, sister of the deceased, stated that Rosa was last engaged as a domestic servant at 115, Abbey-road, St. John's-wood. Subsequently she left her place and returned home, and threatened to destroy herself. On the 23rd ult. she went out in her old clothes to the deceased for nine months. Three weeks ago last Monday he accompanied the deceased to Haverstock-hill to see a friend of hers. She appeared strange in her manner.—Some other evidence was given, from which it appeared that the body of the deceased was found floating in the water of the Regent's Canal at Maiden Vale. The young man Furdon was recalled, and said that deceased was jealous of her sisters.—The jury returned a verdict of Suicide while in an unsound state of mind.

A Mail Steamer Disabled.

The State Line steamer *State of Georgia*, bound from Glasgow with a general cargo and passengers for New York, passed off Queenstown harbour on Thursday evening, bearing back for Glasgow with her machinery damaged and loss of boats. She is out three days from Glasgow.

The Privy Council.

We understand that Sir Montague Smith has resigned the office of a paid judge of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which he has filled with great ability since 1871, but that he hopes to give occasional attendance upon the sittings of the Judicial Committee, of which he is still a member.

Prince Bismarck.

Prince Bismarck, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Times*, is seriously ill. On Tuesday he was not able to receive the usual official reports, and on Thursday he did not seem to be much better.

ROYALTY IN COTTENPOLES.—The Dukes of Edinburgh and Albany visited Manchester on Monday, in the interest of a movement for establishing in this country a Central Institution for the Study of Music, similar to the conservatoires of continental cities. After visiting the Athenæum, they dined at the Town Hall, and subsequently attended a *soirée* at the Free Trade Hall. The Duke of Albany spoke upon the development of music in England. The Duke of Edinburgh said he was anxious that the city of Manchester should express its opinion that the advancement of music by public aid was worthy the attention of the Government and of the country. Prince Christian also addressed the meeting.

BASINGHALL-STREET. E.C.

SERIOUS BALLOON ACCIDENT.

A Member of Parliament Missing.

The Saladin, a Government balloon, in charge of Captain James Templer, of the Royal Engineers, who was accompanied by Mr. Walter Powell, M.P. for Malmesbury, and Mr. Arg Gardner, the late member for Cheltenham, left Bath about mid-day on Saturday, the 10th inst., and, crossing over Somerset to Exeter, proceeded thence to the neighbourhood of Bridport, Dorset. The aeronauts continued their course until near Eype mouth, which is about one mile west of Bridport, and within half a mile of the sea, when, finding that they were rapidly drifting seaward, they attempted to descend. The balloon came down very rapidly, and striking the ground with great violence Mr. Gardner and Captain Templer were both thrown out of the car, the former sustaining a fracture of the leg and the latter being cut and bruised. Mr. Powell remained in the car, and the balloon instantly rose with him to a great height and went rapidly out to sea. A steamer from Weymouth and boats from Bridport, as well as the lifeboat from Lyme Regis, were sent in pursuit, but they returned from their search without meeting with success. There were no provisions in the balloon. Mr. Powell is well known to be an enthusiastic amateur aeronaut. His experience, although somewhat extensive and varied in

Aerial Voyaging.

is of recent date. About a year ago he began to manifest a great interest in aeronautic pursuits, both attending lectures on the subject and taking part in practical experiments in balloon voyaging, and the manufacture and use of parachutes. During the year he made ascents with the veteran aeronaut, Mr. Coxwell, as well as with Mr. Wright, of the Crystal Palace, and others. A fellow-traveller of Mr. Powell's states that gentleman was a trifle nervous when he made his first ascent, but his fear quickly abated. Since then Mr. Powell has made ascents by night and day, all of which have terminated successfully. About three months ago he decided to have a balloon specially made for his private use. The work was at once entrusted to one of the best makers, and in a very brief period of time one of the best balloons in the country was completed. It was constructed at the finest Lyons silk in alternate bands of pink and yellow. Its cubic capacity was about 35,000ft., and on account of the strength and lightness of the material the balloon had unusual lifting power. Its cost was over £1,000. He subsequently had the netting also made of silk, which further added to its lifting power. With this balloon he has made several ascents from London, as well as from his residence, near Newport, Monmouth, where he had gas works built for inflating it. He has several times crossed the British Channel in this balloon. With respect to the Saladin, it is a

Government War Balloon.

and has been used frequently in making ascents from Woolwich Arsenal under the superintendence of Captain Templer, of the Royal Engineers. Captain Templer has had a great deal of experience in war balloons, having made hundreds of ascents alone and with other Engineer officers. His services in connection with aeronautical experiments are held in high estimation by the War Department, whose confidence he fully enjoys. The balloon in question was made of calico, and was of about 30,000 cubic feet capacity.

Captain Templer.

of the 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, has given an account of the accident in the following letter, which he has addressed to the Meteorological Department:—I regret to report that on Saturday, Dec. 12, I ascended at Bath, accompanied by Mr. Walter Powell and Mr. Arg Gardner, at 1.35 p.m., for the purpose of taking the temperature of the air, and the amount of snow in the air, for the Meteorological Office. I cleared the snow clouds at 4,000ft. altitude; the temperature of these clouds was 25deg., and the wet-bulb thermometer read 55deg. At 4,200ft. we passed over Wells, the time being 2h. 5m. At this height I worked over Glastonbury; the temperature now rose to 41deg., and the sky was perfectly clear. I passed then between Somerton and Langport, and I here found that I was in a N. W. current. I asked Mr. Powell to send the balloon up to 6,000ft., to ascertain the temperature of a small bank of cirrus. I found the temperature to be 31 deg., and then I asked him to place me at 2,000ft. altitude, to regain the N. W. current, and we then came in view of Crewkerne. I now kept at a low altitude until I reached Beaminster. Mr. Powell here observed that we were going at thirty miles an hour, and here we first heard the roar of the sea. The balloon suddenly rose to 4,000ft., at this time I said to Mr. Powell, "Go down to within 100ft. of the earth, and ascertain our exact position." We coasted along close to the ground until we reached Symonsbury. There called to a man, and asked him how far the distance was to Bridport, and he said about a mile. I asked Mr. Powell to prepare to "take in," our pace now increasing to thirty-five miles an hour. To avoid the little village of Eype Mr. Powell threw out some ballast. This took us to 1,500ft. elevation, and we had still two miles to get in. I opened the valve, and descended about 150 yards short of the cliff. The balloon, on touching the ground, dragged a few feet, and I rolled out of the car with the valve line in my hand. This caused the balloon to ascend about eight feet, when Mr. Gardner dropped off, and unfortunately broke his leg. I called to Mr. Powell, who was standing in the car, to come down the line. He took hold of the line, and in a few more seconds the line was torn through my hands. The balloon rose rapidly. Mr. Powell waved his hand to me, and I took his compass bearings, and found that he was going in a S. E. direction. Some men coming up, I placed Mr. Gardner in their charge, and went word to the constable and Bridport harbour-master to keep a good look out, and to go out with boats. I then proceeded to Bridport and telegraphed to the commanding officer of Royal Engineers, Weymouth, to have a steamer in readiness for me to go in search. I proceeded to Weymouth and found the steamship Commodore with steam up. I here received a telegram from Bridport harbour-master saying that the balloon had been seen to drop in the sea south of Bridport. I at once proceeded to sea, searched the alleged place of its descent, making due allowance for the wind and current. This proving unsuccessful, I crossed the Channel till we sighted the Casquet Light, and then returned in a N. W. direction, ultimately reaching Weymouth about five a.m. on Sunday morning, and having organised further search. I am of opinion that what was seen to fall into the sea was not the balloon, but part of the gear, thrown out to lighten it, as the balloon could not have fallen so close to the shore as to be visible at about five p.m.

Mr. Gardner's

account of the business, as communicated by him to a gentleman who has visited him in Bridport Hospital, is that they intended to descend in a field more inland. Suddenly they found the sea close to them, and every effort was made to descend. The balloon came "like lightning" to the ground, and the occupants had no time to speak to each other. When the balloon fell they tumbled over one another in the car as it was dragged along. Mr. Gardner thinks that Mr. Powell became entangled among the ropes. He believes that the balloon would reach the Continent if its side was not ripped in falling. Mr. Robert Warren, of Weymouth, who saw the balloon descending opposite his house, and two of its occupants thrown out, says that four bags of ballast were also thrown out and the balloon rose and went straight out to sea at a rapid pace, with Mr. Powell standing upright in the car. He could see Mr. Powell with his arms above his head working ropes. The balloon was lost to view in less than five minutes.

All the inquiries of the Foreign Office, the Meteorological Department, and Scotland-yard authorities as to the missing balloon have so far been fruitless. Captain Templer and some of Mr. Powell's friends proposed some distance along the coast on Wednesday from Bridport in a steam-tug to inform fishermen and others of the

offer of £200 for the recovery of Mr. Powell, alive or dead.

Dragging Operations

were then resumed until interrupted by threatening weather and a heavy sea. It is intended, so long as the sea continues rough, to engage men to keep a constant watch for anything coming to the surface. It is stated that Mr. Powell once previously had a somewhat perilous adventure on the south coast, and was in danger of being carried out to sea. When the balloon came near Dover the country people made haste to secure it, and not knowing how to act, gashed at it with knives to let the gas out. The rents so caused are still visible on the balloon, which was quite new, and had been made of best Lyons silk under Mr. Powell's own direction. The corrected bearings obtained on Tuesday place the point where the balloon is supposed to have struck the sea as south-south-west from the cliff, thus making the wind north-north-east when the balloon escaped. Captain Cosens, of the Commodore, has been instructed by Mr. Powell's family to proceed to Guernsey, and there engage the steamer Rescue, with which he is to scour

The Brittany Coast.

He will telegraph from each town to Mr. Powell's relatives the result of his search. The Channel Islands mail steamers which arrived at Jersey on Wednesday report not having seen or heard anything of Mr. Powell and the missing balloon. By order of Major-General Nicholson, Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, a strict lookout is kept at all points of the island, and any intelligence will be sent direct to St. Heliers. His excellency has received instructions from the Admiralty to send out her Majesty's gunboat Dasher to cruise round Jersey or the same object.

The Admiralty and the Foreign Office have interested themselves extraordinarily on behalf of the relatives of Mr. Powell. The latter, besides acquainting their consuls of the loss of the balloon, has asked them to inform every one of the rewards offered for the recovery of Mr. Powell. The Admiralty has issued strict orders to the coastguards and marines, and all of her Majesty's vessels likely to come across the balloon, if absent, to take it to the nearest port. In addition to this, several coasting or guardships, besides the Dasher, have been ordered to cruise round their respective grounds, to pick up if possible any information relative to the balloon. A Trowbridge correspondent telegraphs:—The general opinion in Malmesbury is that Mr. Powell has succumbed. The intense and painful anxiety prevailing during the early part of the week has given place to a general feeling of depression. Mr. Powell, though a consistent Conservative, was a general favourite with all classes, and his balloon ascents in the neighbourhood always occasioned much interest. As to the political situation, no declaration has yet been made, but should the worst fears be realised it is believed that Mr. Brett Miller will come forward in the Liberal interest. In consequence of the sad uncertainty of Mr. Powell's fate, a large Liberal meeting fixed for Thursday night has been indefinitely postponed.

Tidings.

A telegram was received on Thursday at Guernsey, from Alderney, stating that the missing balloon has been seen off the north coast of that island, and that H.M.S. Dasher has proceeded in search of it. Further particulars will be telegraphed as soon as they are known.

The following telegram was received on Thursday morning by Commander Anson, her Majesty's ship Dasher, from the postmaster in Alderney:—"Balloon seen by several men off Manneville yesterday at 7 a.m. Supposed to be Mr. Powell. Also seen by a soldier on board the Courier."

On Thursday afternoon Mr. W. H. Le Ferre, president of the

Balloon Society of Great Britain,

received a telegram from his brother, Mr. H. Le Ferre, at Jersey, to the following effect:—"Powell's balloon reported to have been sighted off Cherbourg last night. Shall make further inquiries." At the Foreign Office on Thursday afternoon it was ascertained that Lord Tenterden, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had received a telegram from the British Vice-Consul at Cherbourg, confirming the news above mentioned. The despatch stated that at about five o'clock on Wednesday evening a fisherman named Livigny, whilst engaged in his avocation off Alderney, sighted a huge object which appeared to be a balloon drifting upon the water. He was unable to ascertain whether there was any occupant in the balloon, the object being quite 300 yards distant, and the weather being rather foggy and gloomy. Upon his return to Cherbourg he spoke to some of his fellow-fishermen of the occurrence, who, having heard of the reward for the recovery of Mr. Powell's balloon, advised him to communicate with the British Consul; and he accordingly repaired to the office. The Vice-Consul at once sent out a vessel in search of the balloon, and great hopes are entertained of its recovery before nightfall. Lord Tenterden has telegraphed urging the most strenuous efforts being made for the recovery. If possible, the missing gentleman, Mr. Leferre believes, that though the fisherman might not have seen any occupant, Mr. Powell might have been lying down exhausted in the car of the balloon.

Lord Tenterden has communicated to Mr. Powell's relatives at Bridport a telegram received at the Foreign Office from the British Vice-Consul at Cherbourg, dated 10.30 a.m. Thursday, and stating that a fisherman named Carlel Louis, of Isigny, had reported having seen an object floating in the water at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning, about 20 miles from the French coast, and 20 miles from the English coast, between Cape La Hague and Alderney, which is supposed to be the missing balloon.

A tug commenced

Searching in West Bay

on Thursday morning, in and about the vicinity where the balloon is supposed to have descended, to ascertain the state of the bottom, with the view of sending down divers. A large gun was put on board, and twenty or thirty rounds fired to disturb the water in such a way as to bring the body or ballast to the surface. This was continued throughout the day.

On Friday afternoon a meeting of the Council of the Balloon Society of Great Britain was held at the offices, when several aeronauts attended. The chair was occupied by the president of the society, Mr. W. H. Le Ferre, C.E., who said: "I very much regret to state that no help has yet been received announcing the recovery of the Saladin or its gallant occupant. From an early hour this morning I have been in attendance at the

Admiralty and Foreign Offices.

but no farther information has been received there relative to the balloon said to have been sighted off Cherbourg, and which I have no doubt was yet to be recovered, and sincerely hope (as we all do) that my expectation may shortly be verified. I have this morning received a communication from the President of the Société de Aérostation Météorologique at Paris, M. de Fonvielle (who I may be remembered made a perilous descent in the balloon of England a few months ago), on the subject of the accident to Mr. Powell. M. de Fonvielle informs me that their society is making every possible search for the missing balloon at their various stations throughout France, and concludes by saying: "I do not give up hopes of the Saladin being recovered with its occupant, and I base my confidence on my personal knowledge of Mr. Powell, who was remarkable for his courage and self-possession." Before the close of the meeting it was suggested that some notion of the fate of the Saladin might be arrived at if some adventurous aeronaut were to start in a balloon from the spot where Mr. Powell disappeared, and having ascended with the same wind and the same amount of gas, ascertain where it would ultimately drop. The suggestion, however, did not take any practical shape.

A Bridport telegram reports that the rough state of the sea precludes further dragging operations at present, and as a perfect gale prevails, the steamer has been obliged to return to Weymouth.

At Southampton it is believed that the supposed balloon seen off Cherbourg has been accounted for by the South Western steamer Ella, which on Thursday in mid-channel sighted what was thought to be a balloon, but proved, on being approached, to be a dead whale some feet out of water, and in an advanced state of decomposition.

LORD HARTINGTON AT MANCHESTER.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

Lord Hartington at a meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, on Friday, replied to an address calling his attention to our relations with India and the necessity for a total repeal of the import duties. He said it was a great satisfaction to him to know that the meeting was composed of gentlemen not confined to one side of politics. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen widely differing in political views had been able to meet together on a common ground and to take the same interest in those important affairs. A

Somewhat Utopian Hope

was often expressed that the affairs of India had been kept altogether outside the pale of party politics. He thought it inevitable that questions of policy such as those involved in the foreign relations of India, questions involving peace and war, should not occupy the attention of the great political parties in this country. But on the other hand, he thought it extremely desirable that, in consideration of questions affecting the

Internal Administration of India.

party politics should be banished as far as possible from their minds. He hoped the time had now arrived when, in the consideration of those questions of internal administration they would be able to put aside all party considerations, and discuss Indian questions altogether irrespective of the bias of politics. The figures which had been read in the address were very remarkable, and showed clearly how increased the prosperity and in the welfare of India. But there was another side to these figures which he thought it was well should be brought before them when they were considering the policy or possibility of adopting any great changes, either in the

Financial Policy.

the public works policy, or policy of any other kind in the government of India, and that was their relative comparison with the trade of this country. He was aware that there was a certain school of Indian economists who argued that on account of the pressure of the home remittances, India was already overburdened by an undue strain of exports, and that it was not to the advantage of India that anything should be done which would increase the volume of her exports, but that rather it was desirable in the interests of India that her exports, and, therefore, also her imports, should be diminished. It was impossible for him to go into the question then, and it must be sufficient for him to say that it was not a view which he was able to accept. (Hear, hear.) He was rather able to accept the view which had been set before him by the Chamber of Commerce. Sir James Strachan said that India was a country which required above all things from its Government the most economical treatment of its resources, and therefore the greatest possible freedom in its foreign exchanges; these were principles, which in the main, the Ministers for India were prepared to accept. The people of India were poor, and its commerce was weak, and it was the more necessary that all possible restrictions which pressed upon it and which it could not bear, although a stronger commerce might be able to bear them, should be removed. This was the object at which they aimed. They must always remember that

The Poverty of India

made it extremely difficult to raise the necessary revenue. New taxes, were not easily found, and were accepted with great reluctance and unwillingness, and, in many cases, were the source of great political danger. Economical knowledge of India was, perhaps, more definite than commercial enterprise, and although India had not yet reached

Self-government.

yet he did not think it would be wise in the rulers of India to neglect the prejudices, though they might be founded in error, of the great masses of the population. It was necessary, therefore, in proceeding in the direction of changes which they believed would be ultimately beneficial to India herself, to proceed with great caution and deliberation, and as far as possible, to prepare the ground beforehand. As to the intentions of the Government of India, it would be necessary for him to be extremely brief, as well as extremely reticent. The necessity for his reticence had been increased by the unfortunate announcements which had lately appeared in some newspapers as to the intentions of the Government of India in their next Budget. These announcements were not only premature and unauthorised, but were also extremely inaccurate. (Cheers.)

Repeal of the Cotton Duties

he had already said all he could on the subject. The Government, both in India and at home were fully aware of the inconvenience caused by the present system, and of the anomalies produced by the partial remission of the duties, and of the still further anomalies which would be produced by any further partial remission. They were aware of the protective operation of the duties still remaining; of the tendency which the present tariff had to encourage in this country, a manufacture which was wasteful in its consumption of raw material producing the smallest possible return on the capital invested, required the smallest amount of labour, and produced the worst possible article for the consumer. All this had been represented to the Government of India, and was, he hoped, receiving full and intelligent consideration. He thought it would have been better if the Government had waited until the time had arrived when the duties could have been altogether abolished, but that course was not followed, and as the intentions of the framers of the regulations was to deal a fatal blow at the permanent retention of the duties, he could not deny that they had been successful, for it was impossible to deny it. The proverbial thin end of the wedge had been introduced with a vengeance, the keystone of the structure with drawn; the system, therefore, rested upon no fixed principle, and could not remain a permanent part of

The Fiscal System of India.

(Cheers.) These considerations had all been played before the Government of India, to whom must be left within certain limits the decision as to the time and mode of arriving at the inevitable result, which must be arrived at with full consideration of fiscal, political, and economical considerations. He must contradict in the most direct manner one part of the report which had recently reached us from India, to the effect that the Government of India, in what they were proposing to do were acting contrary to their own opinions in deference to pressure from the Home Government. No such pressure had been exercised, and all they had done had been to keep the Indian Government fully instructed, as they were bound to do, of the effect both here and in India of the operation of these partial duties. Passing to

Opium Duties.

Lord Hartington cautioned his hearers against lending the weight of their influence to the agitation which was now becoming so powerful for the abolition of the opium duties, one of the principal sources of Indian revenue. There was a great deal to be said in defence of the opium revenue. He did not think it would be reasonable or consistent with the intelligence of Lancashire men that they should on the one hand ask the Government to remit certain sources of revenue, and on the other ask the Government to embark in larger expenditure on public works, and yet at the same time do their utmost to destroy a revenue which produced to the Government of India from six to eight millions a year, collected without hardship or suffering, and with the smallest complaint from the people. As to the

Extension of the Railways

for the prevention of famines, the subject could be looked at both as a commercial investment and from a philanthropic point of view. If they could show that public works would be profitable, there was no more to be said. But there was a great deal to be said if they were to look upon the construction of railways and irrigation works merely from the philanthropic side. The noble lord concluded by saying that the Government of India welcomed a criticism of their policy, and especially so when those criticisms came from an important commercial community like that of Manchester. The proceedings then terminated.

OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT AT MERV.

Our Own Correspondent at Merv, A town in a Tartar Oasis, Displayed a decision and nerve Very rare in such barbarous places. Imprisoned a month in a tent, His letters I wrote like a martyr; And when to the post they were sent, He studied and taught himself Tartar.

Intent upon conquest, the Russ, Who cared nothing for Tekké resistance, When he heard he was writing for us, Judiciously kept at a distance.

So the Tartars, who found him of use In scaring the foreign invader, Determined their captive to loose, And made him a Khan and Bahadur.

A caucus of mutton-skinned Khans Elected him Boss of their Houses, Which greatly delighted the Clans, And their gaily-caparisoned horses.

Baba Khan from the West with his gun, Brought his one eye luridly blazing; But the way that he brandished the one At the stranger was truly amazing.

Then the Khan from the East swore an oath, Which, We learn, was a regular freezer; But, like Pompey and Antony, both Acknowledged the Journalist Caesar.

So they squatted there, winking their eyes, And sucked at the bubbling narghile; Till the Ichthyar Khan looked as wise As the Turcoman gentlemen silly.

With an eye on his rubicund flax, And loosing his tie round his neck, he Orated in pure Jagating, Which in Tekké and lingo means Tekké.

"My great-uncle, who stole the white horse, Was most properly hanged when they caught him; 'Twas such folly to steal, when, of course, 'Twould have been but a debt to have bought him."

"Now, Moral—To loot caravans And murder at large is a blunder; A Custom-house System, my Khans, Is far better business than plunder!"

The three eyes of his colleagues and friends All winked in profound admiration; "Bismillah! the Chief apprehends Most correctly the true situation."

Having thus by his gift of the gab Enraptured that elderly couple, From the banks of the muddy Murgab He proceeded to Constantinople.

On his way—"his journal he quotes— Still flushed with his Turcoman glories, He was told that the scout with his notes Had been roasted and eaten near Tauris.

But at last by the kindest of ways At a pillar-box lately erected, He recovered the bulk of the scraps Which the Office had kindly collected.

So make room for "True Coming Man, Who will confound all odds into even; And welcome great Ichthyar Khan Of Tartary, Khan of St. Stephen's!"

Daily News (The People's version).

MONEY MARKET.

CITY, Saturday Afternoon.

The tone of the Money Market is easier, the supply of capital having increased. Three months' bills are quoted at 4½, and about 4 per cent. is the rate for day to day loans.

Very little business was done on the Stock Exchange. Consols were firm and 1-16 to 3-16 better. As regards Railways, a fall of 1 occurred in Metropolitan and Metropolitan District. It is reported that some difficulty is experienced in raising the capital for the completion of the Inner Circle, and payments on account of passenger duty are understood to be heavy. The Southern Stocks are firmer, but the goods lines occasionally better. Canadian and American Railways have all given way. Foreign Bonds generally are quiet. Egyptian are steady, and Turkish maintain yesterday's prices; but Mexican, Peruvian, Spanish, French, and Italian have given way. Miscellaneous Securities were quiet with no particular change.

Annexed is a list of after official hours' prices:—
Consols for Money, 5 per Cent. 100-4, 100-5, 100-6, 100-7, 100-8, 100-9, 100-10, 100-11, 100-12, 100-13, 100-14, 100-15, 100-16, 100-17, 100-18, 100-19, 100-20, 100-21, 100-22, 100-23, 100-24, 100-25, 100-26, 100-27, 100-28, 100-29, 100-30, 100-31, 100-32, 100-33, 100-34, 100-35, 100-36, 100-37, 100-38, 100-39, 100-40, 100-41, 100-42, 100-43, 100-44, 100-45, 100-46, 100-47, 100-48, 100-49, 100-50, 100-51, 100-52, 100-53, 100-54, 100-55, 100-56, 100-57, 100-58, 100-59, 100-60, 100-61, 100-62, 100-63, 100-64, 100-65, 100-66, 100-67, 100-68, 100-69, 100-70, 100-71, 100-72, 100-73, 100-74, 100-75, 100-76, 100-77, 100-78, 100-79, 100-80, 100-81, 100-82, 100-83, 100-84, 100-85, 100-86, 100-87, 100-88, 100-89, 100-90, 100-91, 100-92, 100-93, 100-94, 100-95, 100-96, 100-97, 100-98, 100-99, 100-100, 100-101, 100-102, 100-103, 100-104, 100-105, 100-106, 100-107, 100-108, 100-109, 100-110, 100-111, 100-112, 100-113, 100-114, 100-115, 100-116, 100-117, 100-118, 100-119, 100-120, 100-121, 100-122, 100-123, 100-124, 100-125, 100-126, 100-127, 100-128, 100-129, 100-130, 100-131, 100-132, 100-133, 100-134, 100-135, 100-136, 100-137, 100-138, 100-139, 100-140, 100-141, 100-142, 100-143, 100-144, 100-145, 100-146, 100-147, 100-148, 100-149, 100-150, 100-151, 100-152, 100-153, 100-154, 100-155, 100-156, 100-157, 100-158, 100-159, 100-160, 100-161, 100-162, 100-163, 100-164, 100-165, 100-166, 100-167, 100-168, 100-169, 100-170, 100-171, 100-172, 100-173, 100-174, 100-175, 100-176, 100-177, 100-178, 100-179, 100-180, 100-181, 100-182, 100-183, 100-184, 100-185, 100-186, 100-187, 100-188, 100-189, 100-190, 100-191, 100-192, 100-193, 100-194, 100-195, 100-196, 100-197, 100-198, 100-199, 100-200, 100-201, 100-202, 100-203, 100-204, 100-205, 100-206, 100-207, 100-208, 100-209, 100-210, 100-211, 100-212, 100-213, 100-214, 100-215, 100-216, 100-217, 100-218, 100-219, 100-220, 100-221, 100-222, 100-223, 100-224, 100-225, 100-226, 100-227, 100-228, 100-229, 100-230, 100-231, 100-232, 100-233, 100-234, 100-235, 100-236, 100-237, 100-238, 100-239, 100-240, 100-241, 100-242, 100-243, 100-244, 100-245, 100-246, 100-247, 100-248, 100-249, 100-250, 100-251, 100-252, 100-253, 100-254, 100-255, 100-256, 100-257, 100-258, 100-259, 100-260, 100-261, 100-262, 100-263, 100-264, 100-265, 100-266, 100-267, 100-268, 100-269, 100-270, 100-271, 100-272, 100-273, 100-274, 100-275, 100-276, 100-277, 100-278, 100-279, 100-280, 100-281, 100-282, 100-283, 100-284, 100-285, 100-286, 100-287, 100-288, 100-289, 100-290, 100-291, 100-292, 100-293, 100-294, 100-295, 100-296, 100-297, 100-298, 100-299, 100-300, 100-301, 100-302, 100-303, 100-304, 100-305, 100-306, 100-307, 100-308, 100-309, 100-310, 100-311, 100-312, 100-313, 100-314, 100-315, 100-316, 100-317, 100-318, 100-319, 100-320, 100-321, 100-322, 100-323, 100-324, 100-325, 100-326, 100-327, 100-328, 100-329, 100-330, 100-331, 100-332, 100-333, 100-334, 100-335, 100-336, 100-337, 100-338, 100-339, 100-340, 100-341, 100-342, 100-343, 100-344, 100-345, 100-346, 100-347, 100-348, 100-349, 100-350, 100-351, 100-352, 100-353, 100-354, 100-355, 100-356, 100-357, 100-358, 100-359, 100-360, 100-361, 100-362, 100-363, 100-364, 100-365, 100-366, 100-367, 100-368, 100-369, 100-370, 100-371, 100-372, 100-373, 100-374, 100-375, 100-376, 100-377, 100-378, 100-379, 100-380, 100-381, 100-382, 100-383, 100-384, 100-385, 100-386, 100-387, 100-388, 100-389, 100-390, 100-391, 100-392, 100-393, 100-394, 100-395, 100-396, 100-397, 100-398, 100-399, 100-400, 100-401, 100-402, 100-403, 100-404, 100-405, 100-406, 100-407, 100-408, 100-409, 100-410, 100-411, 100-412, 100-413, 100-414, 100-415, 100-416, 100-417, 100-418, 100-419, 100

OMNIBUS.

Tidings of the missing balloon being seen somewhere off the coast of Alderney or Guernsey, are to hand, but it has not yet been found. There is a fearfully tragic irony in the disaster. One does not look to the House of Commons to furnish martyrs to Science.

Mr. Joseph Hatton's "Journalistic London" series is capital reading, but now and again there are revelations of the world behind the scenes which strike the general reader—and I am a particularly general reader—as rather odd. Thus, I notice that Mr. Escott is the leading writer on the Liberal World, and at the same time one of the leading writers on the Conservative Standard. Of course it is all right, but one does get a little mixed.

I hear that the contemplated army arrangements will take the actual command almost entirely out of the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, in order to vest it in those of the Secretary of War. "The spoils to the victor" doctrine, which the Liberals have pirated from America, is, it seems, to be carried out at all hazards, whether it gives Mr. Bright a voice in the command of the army or not.

Mrs. Langtry in "She Stoops to Conquer" is about to conquer us all. I seem to have heard of her having acted in the play before, or is it only that the photographs in the shop-windows have left the impression? Somehow, there doesn't seem much novelty about it.

What is a "permissive block?" You must not, on any account, go forward, only you may if you like, seems an odd kind of order to give an engine-driver.

And fancy a signal-man having to turn to a book for the explanation of one of the commonest signals, after the signal has been given!

A centenarian, named Leopold Glass, was buried at Duna-Foldvar, in Austria, on the 24th of November. He was born in 1777, and was therefore 104 years old. He was one of the few men living in our time who had seen the first Napoleon. He leaves a widow of 103, and two children, both over 60. Few people of great age are so fortunate in not outliving all their nearest relations.

One of the French courts lately tried a man for burglary and murder. He was found guilty on both counts, and condemned in the first to fifteen years' penal servitude, and on the second to death. The question then arose which penalty had precedence? The convict claimed a right to both his punishments, and argued that if he were once hung, he could not well do his fifteen years afterwards; whereas, when he had worked out his term, it would be quite open to the authorities to hang him. The point was reserved for consideration.

A Berlin dairy is regularly supplied from a manor near the city, on which about 100 cows are kept. One morning lately the milk-cart arrived minus the milk, and the driver explained that he had not been able to bring any because the cows were all drunk! A cask of spirits stood next the water-barrel; the wrong cock had been turned, and the drinking-troughs were filled. You can guess the rest.

Those "crawlers" again. I am delighted to see that Sir Sydney Waterlow has fined a hansom cab-driver five shillings and costs for "prowling and crawling about," and being insolent to a policeman who remonstrated with him. But what is wanted is a definite rule on the subject throughout the metropolis, and to insist upon its being obeyed.

The Lord Chamberlain's letter to the managers of theatres is by no means uncalculated. It is not the first of the kind he has felt himself bound to write, and in all probability it will not be the last.

The point on which he particularly insists, the necessity of having distinct supplies of gas for the stage and the house, is one which has already been secured in nearly all of our theatres, but it ought not to be left to the option of the managers.

The real root of the danger lies in the system of payment. In order to secure payment, everybody has to pass by a narrow barrier where they can be checked. But, surely, some better system than that present is within the resources of civilisation.

Why should there not be a plan of payments by which every one would pay a certain sum at the outmost barriers, and those who require tickets for the more expensive places take them afterwards?

The princely interest in music manifested this week, of course, is not unconnected with the proposed Musical College, or whatever it is to be called. Princely patronage is a capital thing—in England perhaps indispensable at starting anything national of the kind, but if the college is to be a real success, it must have the patronage of the public, and tested merit, not friendly favour must be the passport to office.

The day census of the City of London is just a trifle disappointing. Roughly speaking, there are 50,000 people in the City at night, and 250,000 by day. The whole report, however, especially with regard to the wheeled traffic, is of great interest and value.

What will Sir William Harcourt say to a deputa-tion about the bribery delinquents? If he is wise—which I feel sure he would consider a very modest assumption for anybody to make—he will incline to the side of lenience. Bribery is bad, but a severity which enlists public sympathy on the wrong side is worse. I do not observe that the virtuous ones who rejoice in the sentences passed have yet begun to agitate for nine months' imprisonment as second-class misdemeanants of those guilty of social immoralities equally gross.

Two lads brought before Mr. Saunders, at Lambeth, were charged with stealing certain tame mice. That excellent magistrate felt himself bound to discharge them, because, in the eye of the law, all mice are wild, and incapable of being property. This is good law, and Mr. Saunders was perfectly right—but how about common sense?

The Duchess of Marlborough's letter to the Duchess of Leinster, goes to the root of the matter in relation to the present movement for the relief of ladies and others in distress owing to the non-payment of rent in Ireland. "More alms-giving is no remedy for the spoliation which the landlords of Ireland are undergoing."

THE GREAT FIRE IN VIENNA.

A correspondent telegraphing on Monday night, says:—The official list of bodies recovered and missing numbers 916, but it is now apprehended that the estimate of 1,000 was not exaggerated. In many cases, where the victims lie buried under the still smouldering embers, there is nobody left to claim the bodies, whole families having perished in the flames. The population is beginning to manifest uneasiness at the delay in removing the human remains, now in an advanced state of decomposition, inside the building. It is feared that an epidemic may be thus engendered, and

Another Calamity

be brought about. To-day, Vienna witnessed one of the most unutterably sad and touching ceremonies that have taken place within the memory of the present generation. Long before nine o'clock the streets abutting on the Stefania-Platz were thronged to such an extent as to render access to the cathedral a matter of no small difficulty. The interior of the metropolitan church, at all times imposing, wore to-day an aspect of solemn grandeur well befitting the occasion. The choir was hung with black drapery, and at intervals along the nave and transept were black crape banners with white crosses. In the centre, just below the choir, rose a lofty catafalque surrounded by burning wax tapers, and covered with wreaths and evergreens. On either side stood six mutes, and as many policemen, the former holding lighted candles. The pall was studded with representations of weeping angels in place of armorial bearings. Mass was performed by the Prince Archbishop of Vienna, assisted by the ecclesiastical dignitaries of the capital, and Breuer's beautiful requiem was sung by the full choir. The ceremony was attended by the Crown Prince Rudolf, the Archdukes Albrecht, Karl Ludwig, Rainer, and the Archduchess Salvator and Johann. There were also present Prince Lobkowitz, Prince Thurn et Taxis, the Minister of War, Count Taaffe, a large number of deputies, the officers of the Vienna garrison, and the Municipal Council, headed by the burgo-master. The service was for a moment interrupted by the

Hysterical Sobs

of two ladies attired in deep mourning, who were gently removed by the bystanders. One of them suddenly gave vent to a wild burst of laughter, and it is stated this evening that she has lost her reason. In every corner of the old church there were kneeling figures plunged in agonising grief. Their presence at the funeral of those told its own sad tale. They were the relatives of those victims whose bodies have not been as yet recovered, and could pay no other outward tribute to the memory of those whom they mourned. I left this sorrowful spectacle only to witness one more heart-rending still. On coming out of the cathedral the bells of every church in the town tolled a funeral knell. The whole road to the metropolitan cemetery—half-an-hour's drive—was crowded. Many persons were hastening on foot to the great city graveyard. There was little to see for people who came out merely as idle spectators, as there was no procession. It is impossible to estimate the number of people who gathered there this morning; but it is the most spacious burial-ground in Europe, and there was ample room for ten times as many as congregated there to-day. Nevertheless, there was a display of force, comprising 700 infantry, 40 cavalry, and 300 guardians of the peace. A double row of foot soldiers kept the passage clear from the principal entrance to the site where the catafalque had been erected. The latter was surrounded by massive silver candelabra and exotic plants. At the foot was a small altar covered with black velvet, where the clergy of the different faiths performed the religious ceremony according to their respective rites.

The Catafalque

stood in the centre of crescent-shaped arcades, which I described on a previous occasion. They measure from one extremity to the other about 120 yards. In front of this structure, on a low platform covered with black cloth, were placed 142 coffins, of all sizes, with no other covering than wreaths and flowers. The mourners stood about in groups, visibly overwhelmed with affliction. Language cannot convey an idea of this most distressing sight; and yet these were but a small number of the victims living and dead of last week's catastrophe. Such poignant anguish as was witnessed this morning darkens a thousand homes in the capital, is driving hundreds of gentlemen to distraction, and has bowed down many a grey head with sorrow to the brink of the grave. Your readers will understand that the scene at the cemetery in certain details baffles description, and will appreciate my motives for not dwelling upon them. A few minutes after eleven the clergy—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Greek—arrived together at the cemetery, and as they walked slowly up the avenue to the catafalque the military band in attendance played

Beethoven's "Funeral March."

They were followed by the generals in command of the Vienna garrison, the burgo-master and corporation, and a deputation from the Reichsrath. The general Philippovic was also in the procession. The provost of the cathedral commenced the religious service, assisted by a choir. After the "Miserere" had been sung, the provost, who wore a white mitre and episcopal garb, proceeded to sprinkle the coffins with holy water, which brought the Catholic service to an end. The Archimandrite then officiated in accordance with the Greek rite, and was followed by the Protestant clergyman, who delivered short but touching addresses that provoked general emotion. The Jewish Rabbi succeeded him, and also spoke in terms that made a profound impression upon all those within hearing. A few words from the burgo-master and a funeral hymn closed the proceedings. The coffins were then carried to the grave, and after they had been lowered, the burgo-master threw in a handful of earth, the last tribute paid by the town to the victims of Wednesday's disaster. The tragic scene amongst the mourning relatives over that

Open Grave

was of a nature to unnerve the strongest manhood. A sense of decency and consideration moved the crowd to withdraw.

The same correspondent telegraphed on Tuesday:—From a careful inquiry I have made this morning, and quite independently of everything that has hitherto transpired on the subject, I have acquired the conviction that the number of victims at Thursday's catastrophe must be put down at a minimum of 1,000. In consequence of remarks in the press, the authorities have taken sanitary precautions for disinfecting the premises of the Ring Theatre, where several of the bodies were buried under the ruins. At noon to-day the embers were still smouldering, and a detachment of the Fire Brigade was hard at work. Within the last forty hours a conflagration of the public has reached a climax, and any body unacquainted with the population of Vienna would be led to suppose from the tone of the local journals that great events were at hand. Such is, however, far from being the case, and it is not to be apprehended that this orderly, loyal, and generous people will exceed the bounds of what is under the circumstances perfectly legitimate and right. There is

A Great Outcry

against the extraordinary measures taken on Sunday night in view of repressing disturbances of which there was never the slightest trace excepting in the imagination of certain nervous officials. It appears that the 34th Regiment of the line, which is quartered in the barracks nearest the scene of Thursday's disaster, was not only held in readiness for an emergency, but received twenty-four cartridges per man. The effect of this announcement together with the large display of armed forces at yesterday's ceremony has been deplorable and in the present frame of the public mind the slightest provocation, excess, or tumult, might have had terrible consequences. It must not be imagined that public feeling has been thus raised by a mere desire to fix the responsibility for what has happened upon any unpopular official. There has, on the contrary, been but one voice to praise the exemplary conduct of certain functionaries who do not enjoy the favour of the masses, and foremost amongst them is Count Lamezan. Then, too, the population is deeply sensible of the sympathy shown them by the im-

perial family. The Crown Prince, Archduke Karl Ludwig, the Emperor's brother, and Archduke Albrecht, his Majesty's uncle, have given a noble example, which the leading members of the aristocracy who play a prominent part at court would do well to follow. What has really caused

The Angry Excitement

prevailing here to-day are the almost incredible facts that have come to light with regard to the attitude of the responsible authorities on the night of the fire, which the press unanimously says must lead to an immediate and far-reaching reorganisation of the municipal administration. A respectable citizen, M. Ignaz Rosenbaum, proprietor of a local industrial establishment, thus relates his experiences on Thursday night, when he was at the Ring Theatre, in company of his sister and cousin:

"We occupied seats in the fourth gallery, and arrived at a quarter to seven. Suddenly we saw the curtain move forwards, and a bright flame burst forth from the stage. We managed to get out of the burning building. My sister fled into a neighbouring house, but as soon as she had recovered from her first fright she rushed out and called upon a group of policemen to bring lights. 'I cannot find my brother and cousin,' she said, 'they must be in the theatre.' 'Calm yourself,' replied the police agents, 'there is nobody inside; your friends must have got home by this.' The same thing happened to me as to my sister. I found my cousin down-stairs, but not my sister. I ran out into the street and cried, 'A light, a lantern.'

My Sister is Burning!

The answer I got was, 'We have none.' I went up to a police inspector and told him my sister and many others must still be inside the house. He said, 'Don't spread such reports or I shall take you in custody.' Afterwards I tried to get back through the cordon of troops, when an officer called out to me, 'You can't pass here; if you don't go I will have you taken away.' At last the police inspector came up to me and told me he had spoken to a certain member of the fire-brigade, who had said, 'Don't allow yourself to be humbugged into believing that anybody is left in the theatre. The public got out long since; there is not a soul inside.' A few minutes later my cousin exclaimed, 'For God's sake, help! The people are stifling in masses. I myself stumbled against corpses.' Somebody replied, 'Don't you meddle with our business.'

It would be impossible to convey an idea of the indignation this narrative has occasioned. A lady named Madame Lipp, whose husband was among the victims, and who had escaped herself by jumping out of the window, says that before doing so she called out to a group below, standing with their hands in their pockets, to bring a light, and that there were people inside. All the answer was,

"Be Quiet."

Another lady, Mdlle. Dillmont, had a friend at the theatre for whom she went to look. She ran upstairs calling out the girl's name, but seeing what had occurred ran back again, and asked to a commissary of police, "The staircase is full of people. You must send a notice directly." The commissary took absolutely no notice of her. Yesterday a police officer called on Frulein Pawlik, whose statement I sent you on Sunday, and who has received hospitality in the family of M. Skone, a member of the Reichstag. The police agent began to question her, telling her beforehand to beware of the Criminal Code. Hereupon M. Skone interfered, telling her she had nothing to fear. She then renewed the statement that has already appeared in your columns.

The Burgo-master of Vienna has received the following despatch from London:—The Prince of Wales has requested me to express to your worship his profound sorrow at the awful catastrophe which has visited Vienna. The prince added that the remembrance of his recent most pleasant stay in Vienna made him feel the calamity the more keenly.—(Signed) KAROLVI.

The moment when the entire population is plunged in the deepest consternation and mourning, and when every hour brings fresh details of the most harrowing description in connection with the late fire, is hardly well chosen for an angry debate as to the degree of responsibility incurred by the authorities. It so happened that at Tuesday's sitting of the Parliamentary Budget Committee the subject on the order of the day was

Public Security.

The principal speakers were Minister-President Count Taaffe, the Chevalier Marx, Prefect of Police, and Deputy Sues, a member of the Opposition. The matter under consideration might have been of primary political importance, such was the animus with which it was discussed on both sides. M. Sues attacked the police officials in a vehement speech, producing certain documentary evidence in the shape of a telegram addressed on Thursday night to the Central Fire Brigade. The Chevalier Marx, who answered him, said, amongst other things, that a commissary of police, who had inspected the Ring Theatre a fortnight ago, had been very rudely received. He had, of course, much to advance in the defence of his own department; and concluded by observing that if the present agitation against it were to continue every rough in the town would taunt the police with the burning of the Ring Theatre. At a later stage of the proceedings the Minister-President announced as a fact, that, according to the hitherto existing instructions, the police were not entrusted with

The Security of Theatres,

and admitted that on the night of the fire it had been stated that there was nobody left inside the house. It remained to be seen whether this had been done by error or carelessness. Deputy Sues thereupon sprang to his feet, and, with great animation, said if the police did not look after the safety of the theatre he would like to know who did. It was abominable that such a statement should be made by the Minister. In any other country a member of the Cabinet who ventured to do so would be forced to resign within twenty-four hours. In reply to the charge that the police endeavoured to make matters appear less serious than they were, Count Taaffe apologised for using an unparliamentary expression, but could not help remarking that such an attempt would be too stupid. This brief summary will suffice to show the mischievous spirit that prevailed at the proceedings, and to what extent the state of public feeling was taken into consideration.

Among those who managed to escape on Thursday night were Prince Gustave of Saxe-Weimar and Baron Buschmann and his wife, a sister of the prince's late wife. They were in one of the pit boxes. It has transpired that

A Very Courageous Rescue

was effected by Baron Ludwig Rosenfeld, a youth of sixteen. He occupied a corner stall, and while groping his way out in the midst of the panic, he stumbled against the body of a little girl some ten years of age. He stopped to pick her up, and, seizing her firmly in his arms, he succeeded in saving her from certain death. On Tuesday, Crown Prince Rudolf, accompanied by the Crown Princess, visited the grave of the victims at the Central Friedhof. A funeral service took place on Tuesday at the Votive Church for those who met with their death on Thursday, and in particular for the Polish Deputy Pengowski. The Provost of the Church and the Polish Deputy Father Rucka officiated. A magnificent catafalque was erected in the centre of the building, and around it burnt fifty wax tapers. Low mass was performed by members of the Polish clergy at the two side altars. The House of Peers and the Reichsrath attended in a body. Count Taaffe, the members of the Austrian Ministry, and almost the entire Polish colony were also present. In the middle of the ceremony there was another case similar to that which occurred at the Cathedral on Monday. A lady suddenly lost consciousness for a few moments, and on recovering she gave vent to such incoherent utterances that it was feared her reason is impaired. A funeral service was also held in the Minorities Church for M. Franz Steiner, of the Ministry of Public Worship and Instruction, who, together with his young wife, whose body has not been found, perished at the Ring Theatre. He was himself quite a young man, full of promise and ability. He had been married three years. There were funeral mass at many other churches in the town, and a requiem is to be sung at the Court Chapel at God's house by order of the Emperor. Dr. Newald, the Burgo-master

of Vienna, is very seriously ill, in consequence of the excitement of the last few days.

The Municipality

has already received more than 250,000 florins towards the relief fund. Public charity has assumed many forms, but one of the most commendable is the adoption of children who have been left orphans and unprotected by the catastrophe. A number of households where there are no children have offered to adopt some one and some two of the little ones whose natural guardians were amongst Thursday's victims. People in the provinces have announced their intention of coming for their little charges in Vienna, and the papers contain the advertisement of a childless couple residing in Munich who wish to adopt one of them. The *Allgemeine Zeitung* has opened a children's subscription for contributions from the children of Vienna willing to give part of their savings or the money that was to be spent on their Christmas presents. Count Robillot has handed 8,000 florins to the Municipality from the King and Queen of Italy, and 4,000 florins from MM. Depretis and Mancini.

Archduke Wilhelm

visited the ruins of the Ring Theatre on Tuesday. The underground portion is intact. The floors of the orchestra and pit have entirely disappeared. No bodies were found in the cellar, but the workmen engaged in clearing the upper galleries continue to find disfigured remains. It is no longer safe to approach the stage end of the building even from outside. After the debris has been removed the ground will probably be used for the building private dwelling houses. The managers of the principal theatres have communicated to the papers a long list of the precautions they have taken against fire. The personnel are to undergo a thorough drilling, so that each one shall know what he has to do in case of accident. Furthermore, minute regulations will be drawn up by the authorities, and strictly enforced in all places of public entertainment, probably necessitating the renovation or complete reconstruction of more than one theatre in the capital. A private meeting has been held for the purpose of founding a

Volunteer Aid Society.

in case of accidents of all kinds. The presidency was offered to Count Hans Wilczek, who declined on the grounds that he had promised to accompany the second Austrian expedition to the North Pole, and suggested that Count Lamezan should be appointed instead. This choice was unanimously adopted, and Count Wilczek was thereupon elected honorary president. The count generously pledged a sum of 5,000 florins at the disposal of the committee. The society is to be formed before the end of the year. It is rumoured that the Emperor came to town for a few hours *incognito* last week, and that he conferred with Count Taaffe and the Prefect of Police.

The process of disinfecting the ruins was completed on Wednesday, in spite of many interruptions. Brick, plaster, &c., kept falling from the crumbling walls, and these had to be carted away from time to time, before the men employed in purifying the debris could go on with their work. The bodies, as they were disclosed, were disinfected, placed in metal coffins, and conveyed to the cemetery. The investigation of the police authorities into the causes of the fire and the circumstances connected with it is nearly completed.—The official *Wiener Zeitung*, of Thursday, emphatically contradicted the report published by some newspapers that Prince Hohenloë, the Grand Chamberlain of the Imperial Household, had received a reprimand from the Emperor for sending a message of sympathy to the director of the Ring Theatre on the evening of the fire.

The Common Council of Vienna held a sitting this evening, to take into consideration the official report of

The Board of Works

regarding the fire at the Ring Theatre. This report states that Herr Wilhelm, the chief engineer to the Board, on arriving at the scene of the conflagration, asked two policemen, who were standing before the main door of the theatre, whether any people were still within the building. He received in reply a positive statement that the whole of the audience had left the theatre in safety. The report next describes how this assertion appeared to be perfectly credible, because not a single person was to be seen at any of the entrances. The men of the fire brigade nevertheless made their way into the galleries in order to rescue any persons who, in spite of the statement to the contrary, might have been left behind. The air was so suffocating that it was impossible to penetrate beyond a certain distance. The torches which the firemen carried went out for want of oxygen, and they themselves were

Unable to Breathe.

The report further expresses the conviction of all the officers of the fire brigade that all who remained in the theatre must have died very speedily from suffocation, and that it is scarcely conceivable that any one in the theatre could have been alive when the firemen reached the scene of action. The Board of Works, in conclusion, ascribe the catastrophe to the failure to communicate the fact of the outbreak of the fire to the fire brigade by the direct wire connecting the theatre with the fire station, where the news was first received after a considerable lapse of time from the police authorities, and, above all, to the fact that there was no outlet for the smoke and poisonous gases, except over the stairs where the audience were crowded together in their anxiety to escape.

The work of propping up the walls of the theatre is completed, and the removal of the rubbish has commenced. As this goes on, corpses, fragments of bodies, bits of torn clothing, portions of watches, spectacles, and opera-glasses, pieces of money, keys, and similar articles, are perpetually being disinterred from the ruins.

On Friday afternoon, Herr Pelser, the Public Prosecutor, who is conducting the investigation into the circumstances of the fire, accompanied by Herr Lauser, a high legal functionary, inspected the mine with the object of ascertaining the number of exits, the construction of the doors in the galleries, and other particulars. In the Lower House of the Reichsrath on Friday, Herr Koppe proposed that a special bill should be introduced authorising the authorities to adopt a more summary procedure than is usual at the inquests on the bodies which have not been identified.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A STATION MASTER.

On Tuesday night, about half-past six, Mr. Francis Young, aged forty, in the employ of the South-eastern Railway Company as station-master of Waterloo Junction, was going down the line close to the station for the purpose of ascertaining that the fog signalmen were at their post, the fog being very thick at that time, when an up-train came along unperceived and knocked him down, breaking both his legs. Assistance was afforded him, and he was carried on an ambulance to St. Thomas's Hospital. After consultation, the surgeons decided to amputate both limbs, but the sufferer died at eight o'clock, before the operation could be performed. Mr. Young was for many years chief inspector at Charing-cross Station. He leaves a widow and four children.

SUSPICIOUS DISCOVERY OF ARMS.

As a master mason named Catton, and a man in his employment were repairing the roof of a house occupied by James Walsh, an Irish labourer, in an Irish quarter of Huddersfield, on Tuesday afternoon, they found between the roof and the ceiling a number of packages with green labels. The police were communicated with, and the chief constable and detective inspector on going to the house found that the packages contained cartridges, revolvers, and revolver cases, all of which were at once seized. There was also a quantity of white powder, the properties of which have not been made known. The occupier of the house, who has lived there four or five years, denies any knowledge of the articles. There was only a girl in the house at the time of the seizure, and as soon as Walsh got home from his work he went to the police station to inquire what was the matter and to know what had been found. He had been in the habit of taking lodgers, but not for the last six months. It is said there is a trap-door in the ceiling, but that it had never been opened over it when Walsh entered the house, and that it had never been disturbed since. No arrests have been made.

THE BERLIN TREATY AND THE BEACONSFIELD POLICY;

What they Were, What they Meant, and What they Must Come To.

PART V.—EVIDENCE OF LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE.

On March 3rd, 1878, the Treaty of San Stefano was signed at Constantinople, between Russia and Turkey, of which the principal clauses follow:—A cession of territory to Serbia and Montenegro, and their complete independence; Bulgaria largely extended, and raised to a principality, with a Prince selected by the people, and a seaport on the Aegean; navigation of the Bosphorus free to merchant vessels in peace and war alike; 50,000 Russian troops to occupy Bulgaria for two years; Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, and Bayazid, with the territories comprised, remain in the hands of Russia; Russia to receive Dobruja in order to exchange it for Bessarabia with Roumania; war indemnity of £47,500,000 besides the Dobruja.

On June 4th, 1878, the Anglo-Turkish convention, ("the insane convention," according to Mr. Gladstone) was signed at Constantinople. Text as follows:—

"If Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, or any of them shall be retained by Russia, and if any attempt shall be made at any future time by Russia to take possession of any further territories of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Asia, as fixed by the definitive treaty of peace, England engages to join his Imperial Majesty the Sultan in defending them by force of arms. In return, the Sultan promises to England to introduce necessary reforms, to be agreed upon later between the two powers, into the government; and for the protection of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in these territories, and in order to enable England to make necessary provisions for executing her engagements, the Sultan further consents to assign the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by her."

But on May 30th, preceding the date of the Anglo-Russian agreement, it had already been arranged that Russia should retain possession of Batoum as a free port, and also of Ardahan and Kars, and that agreement was characterised by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe as "the keystone of the arch of the European settlement."

On June 13th, was the first, and on July 13th the last, sitting of the Berlin Congress, and the following were its provisions:—Balkans to form southern boundary of Bulgaria, Austria to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina provisionally in the interests of peace, Montenegro to have Antivari and an increase of territory, Serbia also to receive an extension. Rectification of Greek frontier recommended. Part of Bessarabia, confiscated by the Treaty of 1856, to be restored to Russia. The Dobruja, including Silistria and Mongolia, to Roumania. Batoum, Kars, and Ardahan all to become Russian, with the proviso that Batoum should be made a free commercial port. War indemnity not payable till all anterior claims are satisfied.

Now, these four documents place before us the whole question of the results of the last great war and of the Beaconsfield policy, provided we ourselves have a statesmanlike and true conception of what were really the interests of England, and of the sort of policy adapted to promote them. It will be observed that Batoum, Kars, and Ardahan were named in all four documents, and the free navigation of the Bosphorus, and a seaport for Bulgaria in the Aegean, in only one of them—the San Stefano Treaty. Inasmuch as the San Stefano was Russia's own treaty, we see there what were Russia's objects, namely, to enlarge her own territory, to destroy Turkey, to command Bulgaria through a prince popularly elected; through Bulgaria to command a seaport on the Aegean, to get access to the Mediterranean, and to command the head of the Euphrates river and valley. In like manner the Berlin Treaty embodied the collected wisdom or force of Europe, whilst to judge Earl Beaconsfield we must go to his own handiwork, the Anglo-Russian agreement of the 30th May, and the Anglo-Turkish convention of the 4th of June, 1878. Collective Europe wanted to keep Russia out of the Mediterranean, and so did we, because that would have opened to her the way to Suez, but England's supreme object was to retain command of existing communications with the East, and to provide for extending and strengthening them in Mesopotamia, and the question of questions is, whether, and how, this object was secured.

There were but three possible courses, to let the war go on and take the consequences of a Russo-Turkish alliance should one be formed; to let Prince Bismarck wind up affairs in any way he pleased, with no precautions on our part as to our Eastern routes, and to take the precautions we have taken.

Passing from argument to authority, we now call as evidence Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, the greatest authority of the age on Eastern matters, but before proceeding to quote from his last writings on these subjects we will repeat the memorable words of the late Dean Stanley and of Mr. Kinglake, as to Lord Redcliffe's extraordinary position and ascendancy in Constantinople, his lofty character, and unrivalled knowledge of the East. We quote from a volume published during the present year, and entitled "The Eastern Question," containing various letters and documents of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, never before published, and a preface by Dean Stanley.

"My first sight of Lord Stratford," says the Dean, "was in 1833, at Constantinople, and on the eve of the trouble which preceded the Crimean war. Never have I received the impression of so regal a presence as when, in his own imperial embassy, he entered the room with that majestic figure and commanding countenance which seemed to scatter all common things to the winds; and when he suddenly lifted, or appeared to lift, the veil which hung over the distractions of the Eastern question which so remarkably characterised all his expressions. Lord Stratford's part in the transaction has since become historical. Mr. Kinglake's account of his control over the Eastern capital gives the key to his tremendous power. The care with which every judgment that he pronounced was enfolded in words so complete as to exclude the idea that it could ever be varied, was such that, as though yielding to fate itself, the Turkish mind used to bend and fall before him."

"I went again to Constantinople in 1861. He had then retired from what may be truly called his throne in the East. . . . His policy was as simple as it was effective, to maintain the Ottoman Empire by reforming its abuses. The sentiments expressed in his early youth were the secret of his success. Nothing which concerns the greatness of England

is little, and so long as that grand old man continued to exist, one felt as if somehow the greatness of England was not extinct."

In a letter to the *Times*, December 31st, 1875, Lord Redcliffe observes, that "no good is to be attained by under-rating either the resources of the Turkish Empire or the faculty of its Government to meet the fair demands of the Christian powers, and to remove the grievances of its Christian subjects. But there is an evident want of foreign intercourse to enlighten the native classes, of foreign co-operation to give a right shape to practical reforms, and above all of a sustained influence not to be trifled with on the part of friendly governments."

In the following year, the seventh cardinal point he proposed for Turkish regeneration, was "the establishment of a Board of Trade, whose members should include foreigners as well as Mussulmans. . . . The command of the Suez canal may go far to secure our communications with India, but Constantinople . . . could not be held by any power jealous of its advantages, without giving a very precarious character to our positions in the Levant."

On January 15th, 1878, his lordship thus wrote to the *Times* respecting Armenia, which, four months later, was the subject matter of the Beaconsfield convention.

"A word remains to be said on the subject of territorial acquisitions in Armenia. It is not impossible that Russia may have made such progress in that country, as to negotiate for peace while in actual possession of the whole region between Erzeroum and Bayazid, including Kars and Batoum, together with the head waters of the Euphrates. That she would thereby acquire the means of assailing our Indian possessions with effect may well be doubted, but a considerable increase of her influence in Asia Minor over Persia and the Black Sea, would in all likelihood accrue to her. Whether our interests would be thereby compromised to a degree requiring the last appeal for their protection, rests on no private judgment to decide."

There can be no more striking expression of opinion than this. Let it once more be placed on record, that the greatest English ambassador, distinctly raised the question, whether it was not worth a war to protect those very interests for the protection of which Earl Beaconsfield framed the Anglo-Turkish, or "insane" convention, only Earl Beaconsfield's protection was not at the cost of war—it was part of the price of peace.

THE IMPRISONED BRIBERS.

It is expected that the petition to the Home Secretary for the release of the persons recently sentenced to imprisonment for bribery, will be ready for presentation by the 22nd inst. Among the members of Parliament who already support the petition by their names, are Mr. Eugene Collins, Mr. L. P. Dawney, Mr. Leigh Pemberton, Mr. Walter James, Lord Claud Hamilton, Mr. St. Aubyn, Major Dickson, Mr. Alderman M'Arthur, Lord Hinchbrook, Major A. H. Ross, Sir Henry Tyler, Sir John Holker, Mr. Dixon-Hartland, Mr. W. N. Nicholson, Sir Edmund Lacom, Mr. E. Stanhope, Lord Henry Thynne, Sir Edmund Filmer, Mr. W. Biddell, Sir Trevor Lawrence, Major-General Burnaby, Mr. G. H. C. Litch, Mr. C. Freshfield, Mr. H. A. Brassy, Mr. Geo. Burrow Gregory, Mr. D. Osborn, Mr. Cavendish Bentinck, Mr. B. Arncliffe, Mr. J. E. Severne, Viscount Lewisham, Mr. F. W. Knight, Mr. J. N. Martin, the Hon. Sidney Herbert, Mr. Wm. Coddington, and the Hon. Percy Wyndham. The special memorial of the magistrates of Kent is being very generally signed by that body, and a similar special memorial is receiving support in Cheshire, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county taking an active part in the matter. Various public meetings have been organised locally by those who are exerting themselves in the movement, and altogether the committee are well satisfied with the results of their labours so far. It is understood that Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., has undertaken to present the memorial to the Home Secretary.

DESPERATE POACHING AFFRAY.

At the Epsum Petty Sessions, on Monday afternoon, Alexander Bridges, a labourer, was charged with being concerned, with five others, not in custody, in a violent assault upon a gamekeeper named William Edwards. The latter is in the employ of Mr. Lambert, of Fairlands, Hamstead, and resides close to a wood in which game is preserved for his employer. At about two o'clock on the morning of Tuesday last, he was aroused from sleep by the sound of gun shots. Together with his brother, an underkeeper, who was staying in the same house, he dressed himself and went out. It was moonlight, and they had not proceeded far through the wood before they came upon a man armed with a large stick and having a dog at his heels. The keepers immediately arrested the intruder, who gave an alarm which brought up five other men, four of whom were armed with guns. The prisoner was rescued, and his five companions all threatened to "do for" the keepers. One of the poachers, who was identified as the prisoner, detached the barrel from the stock of his gun and struck Edwards violently over the head with it, rendering him insensible. The poachers then all made off, but Bridges was arrested next day.—The Bench committed the prisoner to trial.

THE COUP D'ETAT.

The death is announced in Paris of one of the heroes of the time of the coup d'etat of 1851. This is M. Habrault, who in that year was in the employ of the French Northern Railway. His adventures were curious in the extreme. Having got up and defended a barricade near the barrier of La Chapelle, in conjunction with some other anti-Bonapartists of his quarter, he was taken prisoner along with them. They were all posted against a wall and shot down by the troops. By a singular chance, however, Habrault was not killed by the volley which dispatched his companions. Although grievously wounded, he remained motionless as though dead, and subsequently crept quietly away to a drugist's shop, where his wounds underwent a first dressing. His whereabouts having been ascertained he was again arrested, but instead of being shot again he was placed in the St. Louis Hospital, where he was cured. He was afterwards sent as a prisoner first to Fort Bicêtre, then to Fort d'Ivry, and finally to Africa, where he was detained a year. At the time of his death he had managed by his industry in a peaceful occupation to acquire a competency for himself and his family.

ORIENTAL LITERATURE.—The Queen has conferred a Civil List pension of £50 a year on Dr. C. Wells, for his services to Oriental literature. Amongst the works which Dr. Wells has produced, are a "Treatise on Political Economy," written in Turkish, for which King's College, London, awarded him a special prize; "Mehemet, the Kurd, and other tales from Eastern Sources" (a collection of Turkish, Arabic, and Persian stories and poems); an enlarged and revised edition of Redhouse's Turkish Dictionary; and a comprehensive Turkish grammar, which supplies a great want which has been felt by Turkish students.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT SHORTLAND STATION.—A fatal accident has happened to Mr. F. Barnard, the publisher of the *Sporting Times*. Mr. Barnard had for some time past resided at Bromley, in Kent. Last Saturday evening he was returning home, and alighted at Shortland, the nearest station to his residence. Having several parcels, he turned round to close the carriage door, the train being on the move, he was thrown on the rails and crushed underneath the wheels. He was quickly removed to the hospital, where death shortly afterwards ensued.

THE GARDEN.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR "THE PEOPLE.")

Plants in pits and cool houses will now, during the short, dark days, require a good deal of attention. Dead leaves or decaying matter of any kind should never be allowed to accumulate, and though it is necessary sometimes to have cleaning and re-arranging days, the same as we do in our dwelling-houses, yet at other, in fact, at all times, dead leaves or flowers should be removed when first noticed, as if left they encourage damp and further decay, and bring injury to living tissue. There must now, in houses containing flowering plants, be a nice genial warmth, enough to permit of a little ventilation being given for a few hours during the day, as fresh air is just as important to plants as it is to ourselves, although, of course, no glass houses are absolutely airtight, and on cold days, or during windy weather, plenty of fresh air may find its way at this season through, between the laps of the glass, or the cracks and crevices elsewhere. The mild, soft, calm days, are the times to ventilate freely. The lights may then be thrown open and the warm genial currents permitted to circulate among the plants. In plant growing at this season, the proper management of the

Heating and Ventilating

opens up a wide field for the practice of economy, as in many gardens more fuel is burned than is necessary, and in some, too much artificial heat does a positive injury. In the case of perfectly cool houses containing plants in a resting condition, such as bedding plants, there has yet been no necessity for fire-heat, except during the two or three nights' frosts some time ago, when a small fire lighted in the evening would have made all safe. In such weather as we are having now, damp is the only enemy to guard against, and where the ventilation is ample, where the lights are opened early in the morning and kept open till evening, damp cannot lodge to do any harm—besides, plants kept steadily growing in pure air make hardly growth that is impervious to injury from damp. The show house, or conservatory, should now be kept at a night temperature of from forty-five to fifty degrees, and the lighter the house the more heat may be used, that is if it be desirable to force anything on. A dark house should be sparingly heated, as without light plants grow weakly and their tissues are soft and easily injured. Next to the warming and ventilating,

The Watering

is the most important business, and usually more harm is done by kindness, by over-anxiety to be giving them drink, than by neglect. It is wonderful how little water is required at this season by plants in a cool house that is well ventilated. The air is now freely charged with moisture, and the foliage of the plants draw a portion of their supply from the atmosphere, and as artificial warmth is withheld there is little or no demand made upon the roots by reason of the evaporation from the foliage being in abeyance. But whenever it is necessary to water at all, enough should be given to moisten all the soil. Watering in drippers as some people do, will prove fatal. I have often been asked to look at plants that were unhealthy and apparently dying, that when turned out of pots were perishing from slow starvation; only the surface of the soil being moist, all the bottom where the best roots were situated, being as dry as dust. But how shall I know when my plants require water is a question often asked by beginners in gardening? Well, in the first place, give the pot a rap with the knuckles of the right hand. When the ball is dry the pot sounds hollow, and when moist it has a dull, heavy sound. This is the plan commonly relied upon by good plant growers, but it is not infallible, as a plant that is potted firmly, naturally has a duller, heavier sound, than the one potted loosely or without the soil being rammed firmly into the pot. So, in doubtful cases, besides rapping the pot, in the case of moderate sized pots, try the weight in the hand, as that will not deceive any one. Then, besides these methods of telling when a plant should be watered, the conditions and circumstances under which the plants are situated should be taken into consideration, and in a very short time that best of all teachers, experience, will tell us when and how to water so as to keep the plants in health, and secure the best result, and as far as possible the same person should do the watering as he will remember from time to time when each plant was watered, and his mistakes will become fewer and farther between, until that happy blissful state of perfection is reached. This is a good reason for

Improving Lawns

by applying top-dressings of wood ashes or soot, or the two in mixture, where the turf is weak from frequent mowing. Many people forget that lawns will become bare, and in fact, wear out from the constant friction of the mowing-machine when the bottom plate is set low, especially where the cut grass is all removed. Some years ago the American system of leaving the cut grass on the ground to wither and die and form a protecting mulch over the roots of the grass was recommended, and in many places adopted; but the climate of the States is different to ours, and the untidiness of the system led to its being discontinued in most places. Still the grass must have some support to keep it in good condition, and wood ashes and soot are excellent for the purpose. Other kinds of manure may be used in addition or in substitution if desired. What I urge more especially is that to keep the lawn thick and fine, some support should be afforded.

Gravel Paths

may now be put into condition where worn. It is no uncommon thing to see walks worn into hollows and the water standing in pools on them at this season, when a very little labour would put matters right; all it being necessary to do is to break or dig up the gravel with a fork and re-arrange the surface again, and rolling down the walk firm and hard, leaving the gravel on the top at such an inclination that the water can find its way to the sides, where there should be drains to carry it away if the walks are wide. Permitting paths to get out of shape prevents the water draining away, and so the walks get into a quagmire. At the time the walks are put into order,

The Edgings

should be seen to and re-planted or renewed if necessary. For kitchen gardens, or for paths under the shade and drip of trees, dead edgings are best, as box or other living plants soon become patchy from portions dying. Ivy is the best living edging plant for shaded places, as nothing kills it; but some of the hard Staffordshire tiles, of which many patterns are now made, are better to use where there is much traffic, and are in the long run cheaper than box.

Mushroom Culture

is spreading, and though much has been written about it, there are still many failures. The chief requisites for success are fresh horse-dung, where the horses have been fed on hard food. Some growers only use the droppings, discarding all the litter, but this is not necessary, some of the best beds I have seen having been made by placing the long litter in the bottom, with about six inches of short manure on the top to receive the spawn. The manure should be thrown in a heap to ferment and work off some of the rankness, and be turned over once or twice according to its condition. When well sweetened and rendered mild, make up the bed by treading or beating it down hard and firm. When the temperature has become steady at 70 degrees, or slightly below, insert the spawn just under the surface, seven or eight inches apart, in jumps about as large as pigeons' eggs. Make the bed firm again, and as soon as the spawn begins to run, cover the bed with loamy soil an inch and a half thick, beating it down smooth and firm. The mushroom beds should be made in some building where a steady temperature of from 55 to 60 degrees can be maintained. In cold buildings, such as cellars or stables, this must be done by warm coverings, the same as is done with beds in the open air. A well-constructed mushroom house is generally heated with hot-water pipes, or a flue runs along the path.

The chair of humanity in the University of Aberdeen, vacant by the death of Professor Black, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. Donaldson, rector of the Edinburgh High School.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Merchant Tailors' Company have sent £20 to the poor-box at the Mansion House.

An omnibus was overturned at Hockburn, on Wednesday, and the driver killed. Several passengers were injured.

Efforts are being made in the City to bring about the closing of banks at one o'clock, instead of three, on Saturdays.

Mr. John Kirkpatrick, advocate, was, on Wednesday, appointed Professor of Constitutional Law and History at the Edinburgh University.

Large quantities of cotton were destroyed, and some machinery damaged, by a fire which broke out at Peck's cotton mill, Wigan, on Wednesday.

Charles Gillott, labourer, was fined £3 and sent to goal for three months by the Leamington magistrates, on Wednesday, for poaching and assaulting a policeman.

Two brothers named Cowell were committed for trial by the Dublin magistrates on Wednesday, on the charge of acting on an improperly-obtained marriage licence.

A State portrait of her Majesty the Queen, painted by Mr. Sant, R.A. has been presented and despatched to the Mikado of Japan by her Majesty's Government.

At the meeting of the Statistical Society, on Tuesday, a paper will be read by Mr. G. Phillips Hyman, on the "Industrial Resources of Ireland."

The sentence of death on the girl Margaret Messenger, who recently confessed to the murder of two children at Sprunston, near Carlisle, has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

A Sydney telegram dated Wednesday, states that the English cricketers have played a three days' match here against a Sydney team, whom they defeated by 63 runs.

Some days ago nine owes belonging to Mr. Fowle, of Chute-lodge, Wilts, were killed, mutilated, and disembowelled. A reward of £50 is offered for the apprehension of the perpetrators of the outrage.

During the last few days owners and occupiers of property in Dover have been served with Parliamentary notices for the construction of a Channel Tunnel Railway, starting in the centre of Dover and entering the sea near the South Foreland.

Mr. Ross, of Bladenburg, Coldstream Guards, who has been acting as private secretary to Mr. Robert Bourke in Constantinople, has returned, and has been attached on special service as military secretary to the Chief Secretary's office in Dublin.

On Wednesday the Health Congress at Brighton, began their sectional meetings, and the health of towns was discussed in an address delivered by Mr. Edwin Chadwick, the subject more specially dealt with being the prevention of epidemics.

Sir Antonio Brady, late the Superintendent of the Purchase and Contract Department of the Admiralty, died suddenly at his residence, Maryland Point, Forest-lane, Stratford, on Monday morning, from an affection of the heart, at the age of 70.

On Wednesday Earl Fitzwilliam called together the tenantry on his Mutton estate and intimated his intention of remitting one-half year's rent to all occupiers of thirty acres of land and upwards. The remission is to come half out of the present and half out of the ensuing half year's rent.

The number of offences against the Game Laws in England and Wales during the official year 1879-80 amounted to 10,101, showing, as compared with the previous year, a decrease of about 15 per cent. Nearly nine-tenths of the cases came under the head of "trespassing in the day time in pursuit of game."

Sir Richard Temple is said to be preparing a new work for publication by Mr. Murray, and has also taken over from Colonel Yule the editorship of the volume of "Asia" in "Mr. Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel," based upon Heddewald's "Die Erde und ihre Völker."

Rubens's picture, "The Miracles of St. Benedict," was sold at the Hotel Drouot, Paris, on Monday, for the sum of 170,000 fr., the painting going to the Museum of Brussels. The Belgian representative having been instructed to allow no one to outbid him, it was finally knocked down to him.

On Wednesday night, a police-sergeant, named William Love, made an attempt to take his own life by cutting his throat, in the divisional lodging-house, Leicester-square. He was removed to Charing-cross Hospital, where he now lies in a dangerous state. No cause is assigned for the rash act.

William Henry Newman, solicitor, of 5, Cumberland-place, was charged at Southampton on Wednesday that, being the attorney of Robert Ingram and Charles Edward Dawkins, trustees of the estate of Thomas Dawkins, deceased, he had, with intent to defraud, converted the sum of £14,114 6s. 2d. to his own use. Evidence having been heard, the Bench remanded the defendant.

Very little hope is now entertained of the safety of the steamer Bath City, of the City Line of steamers, from Bristol to New York. She left the port on Nov. 10, and was spoken on the 30th of the same month with loss of rudder and foremast. Since that time nothing has been heard of her.

Mr. Lesley Probyn, late Accountant-General of Madras, and Mr. H. S. Cunyngame, barrister, have been appointed to proceed to British Guiana as Commissioners to inquire into the condition of the Administrator-General's office. There is no foundation for the report that an inquiry into the sugar industry is contemplated.

Papers were read at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society on Monday upon the expeditions of the Jeannette and the Eliza to the Arctic Seas. Both these vessels are missing—that is to say, they have not been heard of for so long a time that an effort is to be made shortly to provide further search parties, some effort having already been made by the Americans to find the Jeannette.

Two persons have been drowned at Netherlee Beach Works, Mearns, Renfrewshire. A young woman named Walker was on Tuesday sliding upon a pond within the works, when the ice gave way. A young man named McAllister, a clerk of the company, who was skating, hastened to her rescue, but he went under the ice and did not reappear. The girl was got out in an exhausted state, but she shortly afterwards died.

French journals state that Mr. Barnaby, naval constructor of Portsmouth Dockyard, is about to visit the dockyards of Toulon, Cherbourg, Brest, Lorient, and Rochefort. The Ministry of Marine, it is further stated, has given orders that the dockyards shall be open to him; and that the utmost facilities should be given to him for the purpose of the examination which he is desirous of making.

At the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, Mr. Grain applied that the prosecution against Mr. Merriman, a solicitor, of having misappropriated certain trust funds should be withdrawn and the recognisances of the prosecutor discharged.—Mr. Bailey, on the part of the defendant, consented to the recognisances being discharged, observing that Mr. Merriman had a complete answer to the charge.—The Recorder directed the recognisances to be discharged.

Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquest on Wednesday at the Buffalo's Head Tavern, Marylebone-road, on the body of Marie Page, aged four months, daughter of a costermonger living at 9, Harrow-street. On Sunday night the mother found the child lying on the infant, whom she had put to bed some time before, and, after driving the animal away, saw that the child was dead. Dr. Hodge, who was called in, said that death was caused by suffocation, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

A large seagull visited York Town on Saturday, probably driven inland by the tremendous south weather on the coast. As the gull approached the Lake of the Royal Military College, a large number of rooks who were at home attacked the strange visitor, when he flew over York Town towards Finsbury, but the uproar made by the first division called in those who were on the outskirts, and coming up in force, compelled the gull to retrace his way towards the lake again. Here, however, the combined forces being again too strong for him, he turned to the wind, and by superior manoeuvring, and by power, succeeded in escaping from his pursuers, who were mixed fowls.

OLLA PODRIDA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS.

The great Roustan-Rochefort trial leaves an unpleasant taste in one's mouth. M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, M. Waddington, and M. Ferdinand de Lesseps may give M. Roustan the best of good characters, and the evidence against him may be wanting in definiteness and detail, but the fact, admitted by M. Roustan himself, that he had "intimate relations" with General Elias, apparently a sort of disreputable Levantine Ruy Blas, disgraced by Khereddine and subsequently restored and decorated by Mustapha at the instance of M. Roustan, does not tend to inspire confidence in the clean-handedness of the French agent. Nor is the part played by Madame Elias, a Genoese lady who appears to possess a very pretty genius for intrigue at one end of her and a very pretty pair of feet at the other, by any means so satisfactorily explained as might be desired. I do not, however, care to investigate the details of the scandal, whether true or false, and shall be perfectly content if they are for ever suppressed, together with the duel suggested between M. de Billing and M. St. Hilaire.

In the Chamber, M. Clovis Hugues created a considerable shindy on Tuesday by questioning several of the latest military appointments, and made a speech which "drew" M. Gambetta. The President, however, disdained to answer the charges brought by M. Hugues in detail, and contented himself with observing that he had chosen the best men and meant to maintain them.

M. Brisson, who was presiding, having ruled that General Campon might speak a second time in answer to M. Hugues, one of the Paris deputies, M. Maret, cried out, "César won't let you!"—"There is no César in the French Republic," angrily answered M. Gambetta. "Very well, then," retorted M. Maret, "suppose we say Vitellius." M. Gambetta appealed to the President to call the offender to order, but the President had not heard the remark, "Say it again," said M. Gambetta to M. Maret, somewhat after the fashion of certain English lords when quarrelling. But M. Maret's friends, however, wouldn't let him rise, and the "incident" closed.

You have your annual debate about adjourning over the Derby day. We have our annual debate, not in Parliament but in the Municipal Council, about the subvention to the Grand Prix. This year the Council has again voted 50,000 francs, or half the entire amount, but only after a tough battle with a determined minority. Some of the arguments used by the opponents of the grant seem strangely familiar—races encourage gambling—don't tend to improve the breed of horses, &c., but there are others which certainly are more likely to tell in a French Town Council than in an English House of Commons. It is pointed out, for instance, that the Society which gets up the race is quite rich enough to pay its own expenses, and that while the concourse of visitors brings a rich harvest to the railways, hotels, &c., it brings no grist to the mill of the Municipality as such. There is, no doubt, something in all this, but here, as with you, tradition carries the day, and the 50,000 francs will probably continue to be paid annually by the City of Paris as long as the English Senate thinks fit to recognise the Isthmian games on Epsom Downs.

Last Sunday was the Berlioz Festival at the Châtelet, and the huge hall was crammed to suffocation. We had the "Harold in Italy," or at least the march of the pilgrims, chanting the evening hymn, with Giannini as the soloist, and then the grand finale of "Roméo and Juliet," after which Mounet Sully recited a rather done-to-order poem in praise of the great composer. The feature, however, was the third act of the "Trojans," with the celebrated duet nocturne. M. Brunet-Lafleur was at her best, and her best is something to remember.

L'Art is a periodical known on both sides the Channel for the beauty of its illustrations, and, generally speaking, for the soundness of its criticisms. For one sound piece of criticism, however, it has been mulcted somewhat heavily by a court of first instance. At the sale of the Beurnonville collection, some little time ago, it was decided, according to modern practice, to get up a catalogue illustrated with etchings of the principal works, and M. Beurnonville accordingly employed certain artists to execute the work. When the sale came on, the auctioneer declared that the etchings were so bad that they really had injured the prestige of the gallery, and *L'Art*, giving the names of the offending aquafortists, pronounced their work to be scandalously bad. This, however, was not all. On the principle which Mr. Ruskin insists on so strongly, that bad art implies bad morality, the critic went on to say that the works bore unpleasant witness to the extreme elasticity of the conscience of the artists.

Whether their employer would have had grounds for an action or not against them, I do not know, but at all events the eight aggrieved ones brought an action against *L'Art* for damages, and recovered them to the tune of some £12 a piece. Oddly enough, they did not say that the works were good. On the contrary, they said the etchings were bad, but that they themselves were so badly paid they couldn't give the necessary time and pains to make them better. In vain it was pointed out that the artists were better paid than those who executed the admirable illustrations of the Hartman catalogue. The court decided that if the artists had been underpaid and had consequently scamped their work, *L'Art* should pay for saying that it was scamped.

Of course *L'Art* has appealed against the decision, and I should hope equally of course that the appeal will be successful.

I never walk down the Boulevard des Italiens without remembering the first time I ever saw William Makepeace Thackeray. A head and shoulders taller than the rest of the loungers in the street, he was staring into a toyshop window, with his hands behind his back, and when he turned away with an air of importunate melancholy it seemed almost as if he said aloud, "That's what life is—tires and tinsel and make-believe." The streets of Paris, he often declared, had taught him more than any school, and he stoutly maintained that the best English he ever wrote was after French models. I have just been vividly reminded of the great man by stumbling on a new French translation of "The Rose and the Ring," by a Madame Isabelle Mélanie Tollandier. There are one or two funny misconceptions of the author's meaning; but it is odd how French the story reads in its latest version.

The sister of the late Gustave Courbet has just presented one of her brother's masterpieces, the "Burial at Ornans," to the country. I have not seen the picture, but I have seen the "Afternoon at Ornans," by the same artist, now at Lille, and though I can see the intense realistic power of the artist, I

cannot conscientiously say I like it. He has been called, with good reason, the "Apostle of Ugliness," and his devotion to his cause has naturally led to his pictures being very much underrated. There is a discussion whether the new gift is to hang in the Louvre or elsewhere. If M. Zola is to be ranked with Molière and Racine, certainly Gustave Courbet may fairly claim a place by the side of Vernet, and Delacroix and Ingres.

The Cremation Society, which numbers 700 members, held a general meeting this week under the presidency of M. Koechlin-Schwartz. The President naturally insisted strongly on the advantages of cremation, but took occasion to observe that everyone would not be permitted to carry off to his own house the ashes of the dear departed, a proceeding which, he characterised as a profanation. This has been somewhat of a puzzle to me. If everyone is not permitted to appropriate the residuum, it would seem that some are to be permitted to do so. Who are the privileged class, and what makes it a profanation in the one case and not the other? Is it profanation to keep the dust of a cremated mother-in-law in a silver snuff box on the mantelpiece, and piety to keep her in a marble vase in the lobby? Or how?

I note that an unhappy concierge has been in peril of his life owing to his wife having innocently knitted him a pair of stockings. His feet swelled fearfully, and the doctors declared that they were poisoned. An examination of the stockings showed that they were made of wool died with a variety of rosaniline. N.B. Don't go in for dark maroon socks.

MURDEROUS ATTACK BY BURGLARS.

At the Croydon Police-court on Monday, George Simms, 30, a labourer, giving an address in Westminster, and Charles Martin, otherwise "Spider" Martin, 17, a plumber, of Crystal Palace, New Town, Upper Norwood, were charged with being concerned in burglariously breaking and entering the premises of the Working Men's Club, at Keston, Kent, on the night of the 4th inst., and stealing fourteen billiard balls, a green bag, a table-cloth, a pair of scissors, a pack of cards, and other articles. Simms was further charged with violently assaulting Police-constable Kem, 37 W., by striking him on the head with a loaded life-preserver, and also with presenting a loaded pistol at the face of Police-constable Beeson, 384 A reserve, a mounted patrol, at Addington, in the parish of Croydon, at three a.m. on the morning of the 5th inst.—Mr. H. Parry appeared for Martin—On the morning in question the officers were on duty near the entrance gate to the Archbishop of Canterbury's palace, when the two prisoners made their appearance, and as they seemed somewhat bulky about the pockets they were asked by Kemp what their business was at that time in the morning.

The question had no sooner been put, however, than Simms drew from his pocket a cane having a piece of lead weighing 1 lb. at one end, and dealt the officer a fearful blow on the head with it, rendering him insensible, and knocking the number plate out of his helmet. Upon recovering consciousness Kemp found that Martin, the younger prisoner, had taken to flight, and observed Simms, who was pointing a loaded and capped pistol at Beeson, who was mounted on horseback. This prisoner also decamped, followed closely by Beeson, and after a smart chase Kemp, who had recovered, caught him just as he was leaping over a fence into Addington-park. He was then so violent that Beeson was obliged to disable him by striking him on the head with his truncheon, and upon being searched at the police station a dark lantern and other burglar's implements were found upon him, besides a supply of gunpowder and shot, and some of the articles mentioned in the charge. The above facts having been given in evidence, Police-constable Kemp was recalled, and in reply to Mr. Parry said that both prisoners made use of the same remark, "What is that to do with you?" When asked what they had in their pockets, witness did not strike Simms until he received the blow with the life-preserver, in fact he had not drawn his truncheon at the time. In cross-examination by the prisoner Simms, witness deposed that he examined the prisoner Martin, and that he did not hear Martin speak at all. Witness wished to add to his previous evidence that on the same afternoon, and when Simms had been remanded, he went to the scene of the encounter, and there found the life-preserver in two pieces, the lead being separated from the stick. He also found the table-cloth, produced, a chisel, and an old felt hat (acknowledged by Simms to be his property). The magistrate here subjected the piece of lead to a microscopic examination, and remarked that the identification of the number plate of the policeman's helmet was plainly discernible. The witness, continuing, said the table-cloth was found near the fence dividing the plantation from the park. It had evidently been dropped by Martin. The prisoner Simms, that chisel is mine. Police-constable Broadbent deposed that on Friday, the 9th inst., he made further search in the Archbishop of Canterbury's park, and about 80 yards from the fence he found the green bag (produced), and about 200 yards farther on two billiard balls. Inspector Holdaway stated that he went to Keston, near Bromley, to make inquiries, and ascertained that the Working Men's Club premises had been entered by burglars, during the night of the 4th inst. He examined the place, and found on the door marks corresponding with the chisel produced. Witness also produced a second loaded cane, which had been found in Addington-park, and witness's theory was that both the prisoners were armed with these weapons.—Henry Oliver, a painter, living at Grant-road, Bromley-common, said he is the secretary of the Keston Working Men's Club. He identified the articles enumerated in the charge as belonging to the club; they had been stolen from the library. The place was left perfectly secure at ten o'clock on Monday night, and on the following morning he found the premises had been broken into.—Inspector Holdaway said that was the case for the prosecution.—Simms, on being asked whether he had anything to say in his defence, said, "I would rather have it settled now, sir." Mr. Parry, on behalf of the prisoner Martin, said he was instructed to say that his client was anxious to make a clean breast of the whole matter, and that he had been persuaded by Simms to go out with him on the night in question for the express purpose of committing a burglary at that particular place, Simms remarking that he knew the premises well, and that all would be right. He also wished to add that the evidence of the constables was correct in every respect. Simms had asked him (Martin) what they were to do for money, Christmas being near. The prisoners were then fully committed to take their trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court.—The Magistrate called Police-constable Kemp forward and complimented him on his courageous conduct. He hoped Inspector Holdaway would report his remarks to the Commissioners of Police.

Three miles from Lower Geyser Basin, nine to Upper. I didn't stop at the Lower Basin, which is inferior to the Upper Basin, and got to the log cabin, put up for visitors, about two o'clock. There I found a party of ten regular frontier men, long-haired, ragged, and rough; they had come in the two wagons three days' ahead of me. We all went up to see "Old Faithful," which goes off about every hour: he throws a big lot of water and steam about 100 feet. We waited at his basin for the waters to be ruffled, like cripples at the pool of Siloam, with this difference, that when he got up steam the one who ran away fastest was least likely to get maimed. This is an extraordinary place—a basin, not a mile square, full of hot springs and geysers, one or other of which is shooting all the time. Each geyser has made a white cone for itself, and generally a funnel down the sides of this cone run the most beautifully-tinted red, purple, and yellow streams: some have a basin full of hot water, generally slightly bubbling, the edge of the basin coloured brilliant red, the water a deep blue. When you look into the basin, the sides are of the same kind of looking formation as chalcodony and of different hues, with a hole in the middle that the eye cannot fathom. The steam is first tinted blue, and, as it sails away, changes to red from the colours below. Some of the geysers are regular in their times for blowing, but most of them seem to go when they please. Slept out at night, to keep in the cold away from the mosquitoes, but they drove us all into the cabin, where we slept like sardines.

The party went off, left wagons behind, and took pack-horses, and set off on trail to lake and falls. I stayed, as I wanted to have a look at the geysers, and made a few rough sketches in the morning. In the afternoon went to where some of the men clearing trails were camped. I go on with them to-morrow. The foreman told me about the Hoodoo or Gollin Mountains to the east. A basin there, he says, is more wonderful than anything here in its way—basalt crystallised in sand, and washed away. Some of the mountain men from the park went there, and a photographer in the spring, and I mean to go if I can follow trail; there is nobody, white or red, in that section of country. Big horn plenty, elk, bear, fish, &c. Got baking to do. Done work, &c., re-staked and watered horses, washed my clothes in boiling spring, baked bread for supper and breakfast, cooked supper (bacon and coffee), mended my overall trousers, one leg ripped from knee down, made my bed and put my shooter in it, washed dishes, rigged pole across cabin to dry my clothes on, as it is raining. The Geyser Basin has a very unearthly appearance. The big jets of white shooting up against an ink sky, and the stream from the springs stealing along the dark fir woods.

Northern Pacific or bust! via Hoodoo country, route up east fork of Yellowstone to Hoodoo by probably the same trail back to Soda Creek, up Soda Creek and across to Clark's fork, down through the next three weeks I shall be in more or less settled country till Miles City. There is very little danger except accident, or sickness, and a little from the Sioux below Miles City.

Started to follow the woodcutters. I got off the track at starting, and my horse broke through into a sort of fissure, all four legs got in, no room for the horse to go right down. I hurried off, and the horse struggled out. I found the right trail very rough and mountainous. I camped with the woodmen, a nice lot of men, by Shoshone Lake.

Made Yellowstone Lake over more rough country. The lake is a beautiful Atlantic blue, about 30 miles by 20, surrounded by peaks; forest all round. We are camped close to some geysers. I noticed in the forest some patches of trees with some disease that made them all bumps, some larger at the point than at the butt.

We all moved. Made a long ride a great deal of it through fallen timber. I travel my horse slower than the roadmen's pack team. It is very difficult to follow the trail by blazes on dead timber. I crossed a bridge made by a rock over a chasm. There was a terrible lot of climbing just over it. My pack-horse slipped and I thought had gone down the precipice. I saw a horse trail over this place, and supposed it was all right. At camp in the evening when I said it seemed a bad bit of road for a pack-horse, the roadmen would hardly believe I had crossed it. The trail I saw was one of them who had ridden across as for swaggers, and I ought to have gone round. They are going to blast to make the horse trail go that way.

Went out with a hunter after elk. Had a long day's tracking and never got a shot. Learned a good bit of woodcraft. Game was drawn off by a party ahead. Made a sketch looking over lake.

Alone again. I started for the falls to-day, and was sorry to leave the woodmen. I rode north along the lake, and had a most lovely view looking south-east from the north-west, an island and lovely distant mountains. I think I remember seeing a picture of this view at home. All the fish in this magnificent lake are diseased with tapeworm, and I caught two just to look at them, about 1 lb. each, long and lanky. Below the falls there are no bad fish. The Yellowstone, when it leaves the lake, is about as big as Thames "Crick," blue and deep. I followed the river after leaving the lake, passing some mud volcanoes (dirty water geysers) and sulphur mountains; more geyser work. Before leaving this morning I traded the explorer's knife and a coat for a common butcher knife and a wagon sheet, so now in case of rain I can make a tent. It freezes every night now, I'm glad to say, and stops the mosquitoes' nightly revels. This is about 9,000 ft. up. I've got a good camp to-night for horses, and grass is good. There's a big fire in the forest, miles to windward. I'm in a large open park, and I don't think even if the wind gets up that it can do the distance to-night.

Wind changed; fire out of sight; a very cold night; thick ice in my camp-kettle and coffee-pot. Got above the falls about noon; picked up an arrow-head as I rode along. The river setting narrower and more rapid. Camped above a foot trail going down to the great falls. I can't draw the wonderful sight. Close to my left the river here, about 30 yards wide, rushes headlong over a precipice 300 ft. At my feet are two lovely rainbows and white foam. In front of me is the entrance to the Grand Canyon, the river, green and white, hurrying its zigzag course between steep walls of pine-clad rocks of yellow, shot with grey, purple, or red on either hand. Along the summit dark pine forest, while a few dark trees find a precarious foothold on the rugged walls; a great wind and ceaseless roar add to the sublimity of the scene. In the afternoon I sewed buckskin flaps on to my wagon-sheet, and made a buckskin bag for grinding coffee, and a sheath for my knife; then walked up to the point where I got a good view of the upper falls and the rapids above. After supper a man came down to where I was camped after water. He was one of three miners come to see the geysers. I went up to where they were camped, about 300 yards off, and smoked into the night. They had come along the trail I was going to travel to-morrow, but as they say it is very bad and nothing extraordinary to see after about three miles from here when it leaves the canyon, so I determined to take the alternative trail and walk up the grand canyon a few miles in the morning. Wages here are 60 cents a month and board, labourer 70 cents a month last winter for skinning buffalo up at Miles City.

EARL GRANVILLE SUMMONED.—Earl Granville was on Monday summoned, at the Potteries Stipendiary Court, for causing a nuisance to arise by the emission of thick black smoke from a chimney connected with his iron furnaces at Hanley. The summons was issued under the section of the Public Health Act which enacts that smoke generated by fire-places and furnaces should as far as possible be consumed. The defence was that at Lord Granville's works the best appliances were in use and every effort made to secure the consumption of smoke. An order having previously been made on his lordship to abate the nuisance, he was now made to do so.

ROUGHING IT IN CALIFORNIA.

The following letter will be read with interest by all lovers of the moors alike for the sake of sport and of the writer. It is addressed to the editor of the *Northern Chronicle* (Inverness) by the Old Deerstalk, the octogenarian sportsman, Mr. Horatio Ross:—

"Sir,—Having been appealed to, as one of the few 'octogenarian' sportsmen now alive, to state my views on the question, 'whether hawks should be destroyed or protected,' I cannot decline to meet the wishes to which expression has been given.

"I see in the *Field* the names of many sportsmen, whose opinions on this subject not only merit consideration, but should cause those who differ with them to reflect seriously whether the friends of eagles and hawks may not be right.

"It strikes me that the safest plan is to state authentically facts, and people can then be somewhat in the position of a jury who have retired to consider their verdict.

"The first time I ever fired at grouse was on the 12th August, 1814 (67 years ago). Mr. Maule, subsequently created Lord Panmure, owned a very large extent of grouse ground in Forfarshire—I believe between 200,000 and 300,000 acres. He was very kind and liberal, and never let a shooting quarter as long as he lived. He gave me every encouragement, and after my debut in 1814, I always received from him permission to shoot over a portion of his grouse ground.

"Although I have now passed my eightieth birthday, my memory is as clear on all points connected with those very happy days as if they had been last August.

"The friends of the hawks attribute the wildness of grouse at the present day to the destruction of hawks and other birds of prey. Well, how was it 67 years ago? To protect Mr. Maule's enormous hill property (as elderly men were employed, and I am very sure that neither of these men ever set a trap for any creature, unless possibly a rat, as long as they lived. If the protection of hawks is now correct, surely on Mr. Maule's grouse moors the birds should not have been wild at any period of the shooting season. The hawks had it all their own way there.

"I can state most positively, that after the middle of September the grouse on these moors were quite as wild as they are now at the same date. To get two, or at most three, brace in a day was good work.

"During the lifetime of Mr. Maule's son, the Earl of Dalhousie, I was an annual visitor at Invermark. My time was chiefly occupied by deer-stalking, but on Saturdays we always shot grouse, and, after the second week of September, I found the grouse were neither wilder nor tamer than they used to be in the old times.

"I have rented shootings in many parts of Scotland, and, as a general rule, I have found grouse much wilder on the east than on the west side of the country. But I am quite unable to give anything like a satisfactory reason why this should be the case. The birds are identically the same, and they are just as much disturbed on the west as on the east side.

"As to flying artificial kites to make grouse lie, I know nothing about it—never even saw one of these engines. I look on it as a cockney, unparliamentary proceeding. I should think people who take to artificial kites would still more enjoy netting grouse.

"With regard to grouse disease I can say something. The first time I ever met with it was on Mr. Maule's moor in 1822. My gillie, who had always attended me, met me on the 11th August, and told me he was afraid I would not have any sport, as almost all the birds had died, and those that were still alive were reduced to mere skeletons.

"I found this report only too correct. I have reason to believe this was the first time the 'grouse disease' was ever seen in Scotland. Lord Maitland, afterwards Earl of Lauderdale, and a first-rate sportsman, was at the same quarters with myself. We endeavoured by every means in our power to find out if any one had ever seen or heard of this terrible disease before, but all the 'oldest inhabitants' were as ignorant on this point as we were.

"There is, however, a note in the game-book, either at Chatsworth or Bolton Abbey, dated August, 1820, stating that 'His grace had not gone to the moor that season, as most of the moor-cocks had died of tapeworm.' My informant evidently referred to real grouse disease.

"The friends of the hawks urge that if I were again as numerous as formerly, grouse disease would disappear. I cannot see any good reason why this should be the case. On the contrary, I think there would be great danger of grouse being exterminated altogether.

"Hawks in a great measure live on grouse. Well, suppose that we had had a severe 'epidemic' of the disease, and that, as is always the case, the stock of grouse was reduced to a bird here and there—and suppose, at the same time, that our moors were again well stocked with hawks, surely the few grouse left would have a chance of escape than would be the case if the flying vein had been killed. I have a strong feeling of sympathy with falcons. They are the aristocracy of sporting birds, and do comparatively little harm. Very few breed in this country. They are merely birds of passage, here to-day, and to-morrow a hundred miles to the south—on their way to Persia and India—where in at of them winter.

"I have, however, a horror of harrier hawks and buzzards, now happily almost exterminated. I well remember that whenever I had the bad luck of having a pair of harriers on my moor, it was needless to look for a single grouse within a mile of their nest. Buzzards are nearly, but not quite as mischievous.

"I have now stated some facts which I know are perfectly correct, and I venture to express a hope that gentlemen who have not had quite as long an apprenticeship to Highland sport as myself, will pause before they encourage either flying or running 'vermin.'—I am, yours, &c., Horatio Ross.

"Rossie Lodge, Inverness, 11th Dec., 1881."

"Postscript.—I have neglected to allude to eagles. I strictly forbid eagles being killed on my ground. They do very little mischief, as they live chiefly on wild hares, which can well be spared. I respect eagles, and like to see them soaring high in the air. I look on them as a connecting link with olden times."

"H."

AFGHANISTAN.

The latest news from Afghanistan does not promise well for the future tranquility of the country. The Amir started from Candahar for Kabul on the 20th of November, taking with him one regiment of Candaharis, one of Duran's, one of Heratis, two regiments of Cabulis, two cavalry regiments, and ten guns, and leaving Sardar Habibullah and Mustaufi Mir Mahomed Hussain Kanilash to act as temporary governors of Candahar pending the arrival of Abdul Kasool. He appears, however, to have failed in conciliating the Duranis, or attaching to himself the leading Candahari Sardars. Two of these, namely, Gul Mahomed Khan and Gholam Mohind Khan, he is taking to Kabul as hostages, while he is deporting to India, Sher Mahomed and Gholam Mahomed Khan, brother and cousin of the ex-Wali. Jealousy almost amounting to open rivalry exists at Herat between Abdul Kadam Khan, the Amir's cousin, and Yusuf Khan, his uncle, and it is rumoured that Isak Khan, Governor of Afghan Turkestan, wants Herat for his brother. The Kohistanis are said to be discontented, while from Cabul come reports that Asmatullah Khan, a Ghilzai, is restless, and that some of the Lurhman tribes are showing symptoms of uneasiness. Many of these reports may be exaggerated, but there can be no doubt that the situation is far from reassuring, and is one which will call for the exercise on the Amir's part of great tact and administrative ability. He has yet to prove that he possesses these qualities.

It is announced that the Secretary of State for India has placed a restriction on the period of all sick leave of India granted by the Indian Governments. Hitherto the period has been two years in almost all cases. In future only one year will be granted under any of the furlough rules now in force on medical certificate, and the question of its extension will be left to the decision of the Standing Medical Board at the India Office.

The sister of the late Gustave Courbet has just presented one of her brother's masterpieces, the "Burial at Ornans," to the country. I have not seen the picture, but I have seen the "Afternoon at Ornans," by the same artist, now at Lille, and though I can see the intense realistic power of the artist, I

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

EMIGRATION.

That prisoner being disposed of, my turn comes. I am politely relieved of my umbrella—I suppose for fear I should stir up some of the dreadful creatures within by poking at them through the bars—and I, too, am passed through that fearsome-looking inner door over which an appropriate inscription would seem to be “Abandon hope all ye who enter here.” I am, of course, accompanied by a prison officer, but we are stopped at the end of a few yards by another grated gateway, at which we rap again and again, like some of the good people in the “Pilgrim’s Progress,” until presently, we are admitted by an individual in white, who may be a cook or may be a carpenter, but who still very efficiently maintains the idea of John Bunyan’s immortal allegory. He conducts me for a few yards, and another door bars our way. There is a rattle of keys, and I am handed over to a third custodian, and step forward into a prison quite in the modern style—a prison, that is to say, built upon the model of one of the wings of Pentonville, Coldbath Fields, or Wandsworth. It is a new prison built within the old walls, and contains 180 cells, distributed over six floors, each “floor” consisting of a gallery

Dr. Vaughan, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford, delivered an address at Manchester on Tuesday on the relations between the Government and the Vatican, and declared that the reports which had recently been circulated on the subject were ~~erroneous~~.

We understand that Professor Geikie will be appointed to succeed Sir Andrew Ramsay as director general of the geological survey of Great Britain, and head of the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn-street.

The "Beni-Zong-Zongs," the poor lads whose parents or guardians had consigned them to an Arab acrobat, were on Monday safely landed at Dr. Barnardo's Home. Two of the boys arrived in London some days ago, and eight more arrived at nine o'clock on Monday morning, having travelled from Ghazoo, where they landed from Constantinople. Most of the boys have no recollection of their leaving home, which they must have done at three or four years of age. But those who do remember, seem to have been allured by the promise of a watch and chain—the very thing to entice a boy. It need hardly be said that the rest of them ever received the coveted prize, and anything given to them was invariably taken. They all say that the "King of Constantinople" once gave them twenty crowns each, but the money was immediately taken away from them. One of the troupe was pacified for his loss by the assurance that the money was to be sent to his mother. There is one fine little fellow, supposed to be about thirteen and-a-half years old—he thinks he is that, but he does not know. He has been a member of the troupe for ten years, and was "apprenticed" therefore at two or four years old. He was born in Soudan, but is a half-bred negro, and can speak little or no English, and knows nothing of his parents. He has been distinguished chiefly by his dancing. Another has been taught to perform some evolutions on the top of a pile of boxes, and in doing this, he says, he has nearly broken his leg "two times." The eldest of them, the part of interpreter, though his English is somewhat broken. He says, and they all appeared to assent, that the expression was put into Arabic, that they got "plenty stick." He says he tried to run away several times, but was stopped, and always got "good stick." They several of them bear scars. They do not know personally anything of the boy who was killed by overturning, but they say that it was the brother of an Arab who has been left behind in Constantinople. There seems to be no doubt, however, that something of the kind really occurred. It was in preparation for the hideous contortion by which an acrobat makes a hoop of his body by bending back till he can catch hold of his heels. It can only be accomplished by beginning very young, and the process is to practise daily, and by the aid of a strap round heels and neck, which are drawn together as closely as can be, the spine being kept bent for a certain time each day, and drawn back still further from time to time. What will be done with the children has not yet been decided on.

Last week the coroner for East Surrey was informed of the death of Captain Nicholas Edwin Adolphus Reynell, aged 56, lately belonging to the Cunard line of steamers, and residing at No. 62, Wiltshire-road, Brixton. The deceased, who had for some time been in a desponding state of mind, and about six weeks ago made an unsuccessful attempt to destroy himself, went to bed about twelve o'clock on Thursday night in apparently good health and spirits. Shortly after six on Friday morning his wife awoke, and, perceiving her husband was not in bed, arose and went out on the landing. She then saw a light in the bath-room, and upon going in she saw the bath full of water, with something floating in it. She raised an alarm, which brought the servant, and the unfortunate gentleman was then discovered to be lying in the bath quite dead. He was undressed, and was lying in about a foot of water, face downwards.

On the 10th inst. an inquest was held at the Railway Inn, Sudbury, on the body of a child, the son of a woman named Sarah Webb, now in the custody of the police. The body of the child, who was only a few days old, was found in a pond on Thursday, and from circumstances which came to light, the police went to a cottage where the mother lived, and arrested her on the charge of having drowned the child. She at first denied it, but subsequently she said, "I will tell you the truth: I took the child out; it began to cry, and, not knowing what to do, I put it in the ditch. I held its head under the water until death ensued." The woman added that, had the police not arrived, she intended to have committed suicide, for she had had no rest since the affair. The jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against the mother.

JOURNALISTIC FREEMASONRY.—The first regular meeting of the "Gallery" Lodge of Freemasons was held a few days ago at Brixton Hall, Acree-lane, Brixton, the attendance of members being good. This lodge, which is composed principally of gentlemen connected with the reporter's galleries of the Houses of Parliament, was consecrated at the end of last session, on the 13th of August, by Colonel Shadwell Clarke, Grand Secretary of England, and has now thirty-two subscribing members.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.—At the convention of Liberal-Conservatives, held in Toronto on the 23rd ult., the following resolution, among others, was unanimously adopted by the 400 delegates present, and is interesting in connection with the comments that have recently been made upon the subject. Resolved "that this convention desires, before dissolving, to express its abiding conviction that it is of the utmost importance to the Dominion that its connection with Great Britain be maintained, and its belief that the advocates of independence with its consequence, annexation to the neighbouring United States, represent merely an insignificant minority."

"HOW THE WIND BLOW."—At the North London Parliamentary Debating Association, on Tuesday last, a vote of censure on the Irish policy of the present Government, moved by Mr. A. P. Pole, barrister, of the Inner Temple (member for Herefordshire), was, after three nights debate, carried by 136 to 171 votes. Some two hundred visitors were present.—At the City of London College Debating Society last week, the Irish policy of the Government was condemned by a vote of 35 to 52, and their Indian policy was condemned on Tuesday last by 44 to 21 votes.—At the City Parliamentary Debating Association, which meets at the Oriental Rooms, 79, Queen Victoria-street, a resolution that a vote of censure on the Government should be allowed to affirm was rejected by 38 to 31. The bulk of the Liberals refusing to vote.—At the Peacock Discussion Room, in Islington, on Monday, a resolution in favour of Free Trade was carried, after three nights debate, by 48 to 37. The Ministerial party were much chagrined by the result. In this case, the Government attempted to impute unfairness in the count of hands to the unselected chairman, Mr. Jones, of Clerkenwell, and demanded a farther count, which Mr. Jones refused, many persons having left the room.

At the Cork Assizes on Thursday, a bank clerk named Thomas Netterfield pleaded guilty to a charge of embezzling £399 from the Provincial Bank, Mallow. Sentence deferred.

OUR TRADES.

I do not think I can do better this week than reproduce a speech of Mr. W. J. Harris at a Fair Trade meeting at Bradford last week. Mr. Harris is the gentleman whose pamphlet I reviewed in my last paper, and his opinion as one of our largest importers of corn is of the highest practical value.

PETER BROWNE.

Mr. Harris said he was a corn importer, and perhaps a large one, and it might seem rather remarkable that he should have become a Fair Trader, because there was some talk amongst Fair Traders of putting a tax upon corn.

Good and Evil in a Corn Tax.

Now, if a tax were to be put upon corn it would be to his disadvantage, but notwithstanding this, he was one of those who believed that for a certain time it might be necessary even to put a tax upon corn and provisions. He would try and gain what he thought so. He believed it would be an evil, but it might prove to be a necessary evil. In his opinion, when Free Trade was first established it was a very good thing for this country, even one-sided Free Trade, because he believed that this country was so far in advance of the rest of the world that we could easily stand it, and for many years it promoted, undoubtedly, our trade to a vast extent. Our manufacturers were then built or being built, our capital was secured; we had more than any other nation under the sun, and for many years we reaped the advantage of the action of Mr. Cobden, who was a man of great wisdom, but perhaps of too much enthusiasm, an enthusiasm which carried him farther than his wisdom would have done. The wisdom of Cobden would have been to have exchanged Free Trade for something, at all events, resembling it. But Mr. Cobden had said that

England Could Stand Anything.

She wanted Free Trade, she could stand any duties that foreigners liked to impose, because they would pay the duties themselves, not being able to make the articles upon which they imposed them. In old countries Englishmen, perhaps, might have to pay duties, but in new countries the people who imposed the taxes had themselves to pay them. That fact was one which had compelled those countries to try and compete with England; and, by paying our workmen high wages, had induced them to emigrate to their countries and teach their labourers how to make the same things that we were sending. It was this competition which had lowered the price of our English manufactures, and now, instead of the foreigners paying the duties, we had to put our goods along side theirs in the same towns in which they were manufactured abroad, in addition to which we had to pay all the charges of transit to those countries, including the tariff which they previously paid themselves.

The consequence of all this was, first, that the real value of raw material in England, such as iron, must materially have declined; secondly, that the profits of the manufacturers upon woollens, silks, and cotton fabrics must have declined; and thirdly, some decline must have taken place in the

Wages of the Workmen

in order that we might be able to pay the charges imposed upon us in transferring our goods from one part of the world to another. He did not think wages had risen quite so much affected up to the present as the other two interests had been, because wages had, to a certain extent, been ruled by the wages paid abroad, for, although it might be inconvenient to working men, yet, if they wished it, they could emigrate. If, however, trade became very bad it would be impossible for a very large number of men to emigrate, and so keep the wages up to the present standard. It was, notwithstanding this, quite true that wages had declined 15 to 20 per cent. During recent years, the value of all home products had also declined, so much was this the case with iron works—and iron might be said to be the product which is one of our greatest mainstays—that their value had decreased from £7,200,000 in 1874 to £1,900,000 in 1879, their value now being but one-fourth of what it previously was. Those facts told the whole truth in regard to this matter; but so long as various causes, such as the prosperity of foreign countries, and consequent emigration, interfered with the decline of wages, England did not feel the effect nearly so much as she would at some future time.

Comparison of Past Periods.

Between the years 1850 and 1860 England was so far ahead of the rest of the world that she did not feel the burthen of foreign tariffs; between 1860 and 1870 there was the great American civil war, which produced great prosperity in this country at the cost of the Americans, who retrograded as we advanced; and from 1870 to 1874 England was materially assisted by the great Franco-German war, which created a great void, which England had to fill. Otherwise we should have felt the result of the present one-sided Free Trade much sooner than we had. The Cobden Club said that

It Would Not do to have Free Trade

all over the world, and the principal reasons put forward in a book published by them, were the following:—Firstly, it might give rise to a sudden and vast demand for labour at home, and a sudden and great increase in wages. Those were two of the disadvantages which the Cobden Club said would arise in the country. Secondly, a rapid increase in the number of factories, workshops, mills, and manufacturing establishments. Thirdly, a rampant speculation in everything connected with trade and manufactures. Fourthly, a general rise in prices distressful to those with fixed incomes. Fifthly, a rush of population from abroad to our manufacturing centres. Sixthly, a stimulus would be given to marriage, and, consequently, the increase of population. Seventhly, the demoralisation of the working classes. Eighthly, strikes would be frequent. They always had strikes and always would. And the final reason was a "culmination of the foregoing." The writer of the book then went on to say that universal Free Trade would lead to disaster. He was unable to see how universal Free Trade could lead to anything else than prosperity to England, and in his opinion the writer of the book most distinctly proved

Mr. Gladstone's Arguments.

Mr. Gladstone had told them that it was impossible to get Free Trade until foreign nations saw it would be to their advantage to give it to us. It was quite clear that foreign nations did not see it to their advantage to give it now. Foreign nations, in fact, were making a good deal out of our being Free Traders while they were Protectionists. He maintained that the country that adopted the policy of Free Trade while all other countries adopted that of Protection, was the country that must ultimately lose. Mr. Gladstone also said that it was impossible to retaliate on America to force her to adopt the policy of Free Trade unless we taxed the food of the people. The Prime Minister endeavoured to show that America sent England ten times as much food stuffs as England sent her manufactured goods; but English statesmen nowadays thought it necessary to put a little exaggeration on the points they made. In reference to the suggestion about taxing the food of the people as the only means of forcing Free Trade upon America, if they could not obtain Free Trade in any other way, then they could certainly get it by putting a tax on food.

What Harm Would it do England?

He had told them he was a large importer of corn. Well, corn was produced in the world to such an enormous extent that unless we had three or four most disastrous harvests in succession, we could not have consumed the quantity sent us by America. The American, would, in fact, have had to burn it. From growing in the year 1871, 19,000,000 of acres of wheat, America now grew 36,000,000 acres, and instead of exporting only 5,000,000 quarters she last year exported 30,000,000. It so happened that all the countries in Western Europe had had crops during the last three years, they had and so, instead of being exporting countries, they had for the time become importing countries, and the consequence was that the large quantity produced by America was consumed. How did

America Treat England in 1879-80,

when we had one of the most disastrous harvests ever known? In that year, however, it was worthy of remark that while the home supply was small, the prices

were very low—a fact which showed that the supply of the world was greater than the demand. As strong evidence that such was the case, he quoted the official price of English wheat during the years 1872-3-4, viz., 57s. per quarter; while in the years 1875-8-9—the years of the worst crops ever remembered by man—the price was only 44s. 11d. Well, what did they (the Americans) do in 1880? They found that possibly they might starve England, and a number of merchants put their money together, and bought up at New York all the wheat they possibly could, their object, of course, being to realise a benefit from the purchases at some future time. They bought up three millions of quarters of wheat, and warehoused it in the hope that the prices would go up enormously here from positive want, and that at the last moment they could send it forward. And they were as nearly as possible successful. At one time he himself believed they would succeed, and those present would perhaps hardly credit it, but it was a fact that England

Only Possessed One Week's Supply

of wheat at that time. If those Americans had only been shrewd men, and held out for another week, they would actually have been enabled to witness a famine in this country. Well, that was how the Americans had treated England, and that was the sort of supply England had to depend upon; and yet America would not take any goods from England except on payment of a duty of fifty per cent. What an argument for the Protectionist pure and simple! The Protectionist said, "We want to grow wheat in England, and give the landlords and tenants a good time of it." He (the Protectionist) wished for that, and he might argue that as we became more and more dependent on America, the people of that country would again start up and

Perhaps Really Starve Us.

As we had given up our industries to manufactures, the Americans had given up theirs to growth of wheat and provisions. Five men out of every seven in America were interested in agriculture one way or another—either as railway shareholders or in some other way, because railways and most other trades were dependent on agriculture to an immense extent. Now if we taxed their corn, we should punish them far more than they now punished us. We required in this country, with an average harvest, an importation of wheat amounting to 13,000,000 quarters. India alone was capable of sending 4,000,000 quarters. Australia and Canada, with ordinary harvests, would henceforth send 4,000,000 more, and we should then only require 5,000,000 from the rest of the world. Russia and America export between them 30,000,000 quarters, and those countries would be bound to send the corn, whether we taxed it or not.

The French Treaty Negotiations

formed a most important question, because by the terms made we might lose all our power to charge duty upon American goods, or those of any other country. It was most important that the French Treaty should be made in such a manner that we could at any time conclude it at short notice, and that was the subject of the resolution he was going to propose. We were not only paying our own internal taxes, but also the taxes of America. It was very fine to say that America was paying off her debt very fast. It was not America; it was England who was paying off the debt. We were losing enormous sums of money not only with America, but with every other country which put tariffs on our manufactures. We paid a

Great Portion of the Taxes of France.

because, although we taxed the wine of that country, we could not make it here, therefore we had to pay that duty. Therefore

We Were Paying French Taxes,

but France could make the goods she taxed, and our goods had to go into competition with hers, and we had to pay the duty in order to get them there. One-sided Free Trade was a complete sham and a delusion. The Government were teaching the people to admire something which did not exist. They were telling every man that he was not fit for his place if he did not see the advantage of one-sided Free Trade. But there were no advantages now, they had disappeared, and it was his only ambition to tell those people that and it was his only ambition to tell those people that Free Trade, as at present carried on, was bad from beginning to end. It was for the working men to take up the cry, and reverberate it in the large towns, and to send that cry all over England in order that the people might see that one-sided Free Trade did not deserve a moment's consideration.

FAIR TRADE AND FOUL PLAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE PEOPLE."

SIR,—As my name has been so continually repeated in the space of less than one column of your paper under the heading of "Fair Trade and Foul Play," I beg you will permit me to ask your readers to do as the Fair Trade League did in their advertisement in the *Echo*, viz., "hear both sides."

Whatever has taken place with regard to the acceptance of Mr. Pettifer's challenge by others, I have nothing to do with, as I am in no way authorised to speak for them. Not until Saturday last was I aware that any discussion had taken place, or that my name had been made use of in the *Echo*.

Here are the facts of the case, as I understand them; and who should better know them than the person concerned? After a lecture on the subject of "Fair versus Free Trade" at the Deptford Radical Club some few weeks back, and which I opposed, an evening was devoted to the discussion of the question *pro* and *con*. At the close of the discussion, in which I also took part, in consequence principally of being in great doubt as to the figures given by the opener, Mr. Pettifer, who did not give a satisfactory answer when questioned upon them, I ventured to challenge Mr. Pettifer to a set debate. It was accepted. All arrangements were made for the 20th of November. Mr. Pettifer agreeing to all. Quickly following this, I received a letter from this gentleman, stating that "after reconsidering the question of our debate," he was "bound to decline, in consequence of having found the audience almost to a man, opposed to his views." I mention that Mr. Pettifer omits to state the reason of his refusal, which I have given you from his own letter. In this letter an offer was made to meet me anywhere else I might choose. I allowed a few days to pass before answering this, during which time I obtained the free use of Claremont Hall to discuss the question on a Sunday morning. I immediately informed Mr. Pettifer accordingly, adding that as it was on a Sunday morning, it would be rather difficult to get a good audience, but if he would let me know in good time, having given him two dates to choose from, the friends there would no doubt do their best. Not receiving a reply for nearly three weeks, I wrote to the Secretary of the Fair Trade League, asking him to let me know if he intended to conduct the part of one of its lecturers; also whether Mr. Pettifer was connected with the League or not. I was then asked to attend at the office of the League. This I declined to do. The reasons for not answering my questions on paper are perhaps best known to themselves. Following this I was informed that "Mr. Pettifer has no connection with the League involving any control over his movements." In answer to a further letter from myself, as stated in the advertisement, I was told that the League were prepared to go to the expense of securing a room, well advertising the discussion, and securing a good audience. My answer to this has been that I will not listen to any further suggestions until an explanation has been given by Mr. Pettifer himself as to why my letter to him was not answered; but when the elapsed time had made it impossible for us to meet on the dates given, he permitted the secretary of the League to state his (Mr. Pettifer's) willingness to meet me at the place specified. If this was not shirking a difficulty, can any of your readers judge of a better word to apply? Mr. Gore-Brown has been good enough to mention a letter sent by him making an offer, but did not appear to think it right to mention my refusal to listen to his suggestions on the grounds I have here indicated. It is true I received another letter repeating the same offer. To this I need no reason to reply after making the positive statement I had previously done.

If Mr. Pettifer really desired to meet me, why did he allow my letter to lie by for such a length of time; and, eventually, apply to the secretary of a league with which he pretended he has no particular connection, to explain away his negligence by writing that he (Mr. Pettifer) "did not think it was urgent?" With regard to Mr. Pettifer having forwarded me

letters giving dates, time, and places at which he was going to speak, I need but say that I regard it as an important letter of my own unanswered. I have treated them at their true value, by refusing to pay any attention to them. Mr. Pettifer is by far too unimportant a personage for me to be at his beck and call.

As to the treatment of Mr. Pettifer, while speaking at Deptford, I am bound to say that if this gentleman did not obtain a proper reception at the hands of the Deptford Radicals, then I fail to understand what it is he required. Not only was the greatest attention paid to his lecture, but a vote of thanks was agreed to, and he acknowledged by Mr. Pettifer by thanking them for their kindness to opponents, although he himself professed to be a thorough Radical.

There is now but one opening left. Claremont Hall is undoubtedly to let on any week-day evening. If the League is willing, as it professes to be, to pay all expenses, let this Hall be engaged. The arrangements should be left in the hands of four persons, two appointed by myself and two by Mr. Pettifer, or the Fair Trade League.

In conclusion, if there is any further attempt at evasion, the words of the *Echo* will be quite appropriate, viz., that "he does not want to fight." If this be true, "let him for ever after hold his peace."—Yours, respectfully, WALTER JOB.

2, Caroline-street, Camden Town

WRECK OF A HULL STEAMER IN THE THAMES.

The steamship *Metropolitan*, conveying passengers and cargo from London to Hull, met with an unfortunate disaster shortly before noon on Wednesday in the river off Woolwich dockyard. She was steaming down with the tide, when, in passing Charlton, some slight mishap in the engine-room compelled her to stop, and the captain let go the anchor, which brought her to a standstill near the shallows of the Government moorings. In that position the set of the ebb tide swung her round athwart the stream, and the crew and passengers were then frightened at seeing a large screw steamer, which proved to be the *Gemma*, The bell and whistle upon the *Metropolitan* were sounded, and the *Gemma*, seeing the position of affairs, made every possible effort to prevent a collision, but it was too late to do much, and she ran stem on into the port side of the Hull packet, striking her just about the funnel, and cutting her down to the water's edge. The two ships parted almost immediately, and the people on board the *Metropolitan* were greatly terrified at the prospect of being speedily submerged, but it was fortunately near low tide, and the adjacent shoals were a further advantage, for the wreck had only to sink a few feet, and it was aground. The steam launch *Ethel*, from the Woolwich Arsenal, and a number of wherries from the shore, rendered aid in rescuing the passengers. Some of the *Gemma* also stood by to help, if necessary. Some of the passengers narrowly escaped injury in their impetuous haste, but all were landed in safety, including an organ-grinder, who, at the first alarm, took his organ on his back to save it from being swamped, stepped with it into a boat, and got it on shore uninjured. Some of the crew were removed by tugs, but, as the tide rose during the afternoon, operations had to be discontinued. The *Metropolitan* belongs to the General Steam Navigation Company, who have requested the officials of the Thames Conservancy to take the usual measures for raising and floating the wreck, which will probably be accomplished without much difficulty. No blame is attached to the officer in charge of the *Gemma*, as the other ship appears to have helplessly swung round under his vessel's bows without his observation. The weather was fine and clear, but a fog came on later. The *Metropolitan* is an iron screw steamer of 521 tons, was built at Glasgow in 1853, and has of late been running between London and Hull.

THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL QUESTION.

At the meeting of the London School Board, on Thursday, Miss Taylor asked that, as a matter of emergency, the following motion might have precedence over other business:—"That all expenditure and other proceedings towards the purchase of land for building, furnishing, or organising the additional Industrial (or Truant) Schools voted by this Board be stayed until the result of the measures proposed by the Home Secretary in his letter of the 22nd November, 1881, has been communicated to the Board; and that it be an instruction to the Committee to carry out this resolution without delay." Mr. Luerast seconded the motion. Mr. Spicer said he would undertake that if Miss Taylor would withdraw the motion, nothing should be done during the holidays. Miss Taylor then withdrew her motion. Mrs. Surr next moved that as a matter of emergency the following motion have precedence:—"That it be an instruction to the Industrial Schools Committee to make a special grant of £3 in each case on account of all boys from St. Paul's Industrial School who are leaving and going to situations." The Chairman stated that the question was one of money, and according to the Act of Parliament the resolution could not be moved without four days' notice. Mrs. Surr asked whether, under the special circumstances, the motion could not be taken. The children would be taken from cold, and would not be able to obtain situations. The Chairman said the solicitor advised that it would be distinctly contrary to the Act to take the motion. The matter then dropped.

A CHEAP DRUNK.

At Lambeth Police-court, on Thursday, Robert O'Connor, described as a "coloured comedian," was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Denmark-hill, on Wednesday night. Mr. Saunders: What have you to say, prisoner, about getting drunk?—Prisoner: Well, I don't know, but I did get a drop, I suppose. Mr. Saunders: You should not go about in such a costume, and get drunk and annoy people. Prisoner: The costume, your worship, is a recognised institution of the country. (Loud laughter.) Mr. Saunders: Well, even if that is so, I must fine you. Prisoner: My dear sir, you had better not. (Renewed laughter.) Mr. Saunders: You must pay five shillings. Prisoner: Now, really, my dear sir, you must make it small. Not, say half-a-crown. Mr. Saunders: No; five shillings. Prisoner: Really you can alter it. No; five shillings. Mr. Saunders, who was evidently amused at the style of the prisoner, at length said, "Well, I will make it half-a-crown," upon which, in most flowery terms, and amidst great laughter, the prisoner expressed his thanks and retired from the dock.

FENIANISM AT BRADFORD.—John Tobin was charged on Wednesday at Bradford for treason-felony in connection with the recent discovery of arms. After hearing the evidence of Chief-constable Withers and other persons respecting the movements of the prisoner and other Irishmen during the past twelve months, including their having been seen carrying a box similar to that found at Tobin's house, the Bench decided to commit the prisoner for trial at the assizes. They recommended that as he was very poor the Treasury should provide him with the means of defence.

A WINDFALL.—A strange story of a windfall comes from Northumberland. Mr. Robson, a woodman, of Hexham, between 60 and 70 years of age, has come in for a fortune of a quarter of a million. A brother of Mr. Robson's grandfather carried on business in Manchester in the earlier part of the last century, and was murdered in 1742. The property found its way into the Court of Chancery, as there were no claimants for it. About twelve months ago Mr. Robson, of Hexham, was walking along the High-level-bridge at Newcastle, when he met a Gateshead gentleman, who gave him information as to the property. Robson subsequently had handed over to him, after having been in the hands of the court for 138 years. It is to be hoped that this strange story will not beguile many others into a will-o'-the-wisp chase after similar windfalls.

TRIAL OF M. ROCHEFORT.

The trial of M. Rochefort at the assizes of the Seine has been marked by several lively episodes, showing how strong the feeling is in connection with this vexed

Tunisian Question.

M. Barthélemy Saint-Hilaire, the first witness on behalf of the prosecution, appeared on Tuesday. Another ex-Foreign Minister headed the list on Wednesday. This was M. Waddington, who gave his evidence in a clear and business-like manner. He began by speaking in the highest terms of M. Roustan, whom he had always held to be a man of the utmost integrity. As for M. Oscar Gay, he had received from the Bey a present of £1,000 sterling for his good offices in relation to the affair of the ports of Carthage. This is why M. Waddington did not care to have anything to do with him. M. de Sancy had on one occasion been allowed an indemnity in land, but the witness had never heard that M. Roustan had had his share of this indemnity. Indeed he had never even suspected such a thing. M. Roustan had only acted in the affair by his (M. Waddington's) orders, and he had conducted himself with intelligence and probity. M. Waddington then went on to say that he had heard certain reports about

The Elias Family.

but that he had not disapproved of M. Roustan's frequenting their house. It was the only way in which he could learn what was going on, and this being the case it was his duty to find out all he could. An effort had been made to mix up the French consul-general's name with the reorganisation of the debt. But the debt was reorganised in 1872, and fixed at £5,000,000 sterling long before M. Roustan ever set foot in Tunis. M. Roustan had never attempted to make money out of it. He (M. Waddington) had known him for twenty years. He was a poor man, and had remained a poor man, though he had held the consulates in Egypt and in Tunis, where people are exposed to every kind of temptation. Where would French officials be found to serve their country with devotion and security if they were to be liable to be dragged through the mud. (Cheers.) He had noticed nothing that could compromise the reputation for honesty enjoyed by M. Roustan. M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, director of the Suez Canal, then appeared, and stated that three years ago he went to Tunis to search for his father's grave, which he could not find. He spent a week there, and was well received by M. Roustan. He thought he had met the Elias couple at a ball. He had never heard anything against the Elias family or against M. Roustan, whom he believed to be a man of honour. M. Herbet, formerly director of the personnel at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

deposed that he had never heard a word to M. Roustan's discredit. M. de Contouly, French Minister in Mexico, confirmed this testimony. The Comte de Sancy then said that he had spent twenty years in Tunis, and that M. Roustan had never had the reputation of taking money for himself. He knew every one in Tunis, and he would certainly have heard of any complaint against M. Roustan.

The President here asked M. St. Hilaire and the Baron de Billing to come forward, and by his order the former gentleman was accommodated with a chair. Maitre Gastineau explained that there had been a gap in M. de Billing's evidence. He had been fettered by the discretion expected of a man in his position, but M. Gambetta's letter now allowed him to speak freely. M. de Billing's honour had been attacked, and he wished to dispose of the imputations cast on him by M. St. Hilaire. The President thought that the Court had nothing to do with this, but at length decided on allowing M. de Billing to speak. The following

Curious Incident

was the result:—M. de Billing: I have had relations with the Minister and with M. Gambetta, who regretted the war. He observed: It is a deplorable expedition, and in my opinion it was a fatal expedition. Already in 1879, for a bad debt, M. Roustan nearly brought about a war. I was sent to Rome to see the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The secretary told me that the expedition was exciting great animosity, and that Italian capital would not easily find its way to Tunis. The President: But these are details that do not interest us. Even if your mission was a bona fide one, it is no affair of ours.—M. de Billing: No one can dispute my mission. Here are proofs in writing. M. St. Hilaire said to me, "You will send me remarks on this and on that; and that there may be no delay in the bureaux, you will write directly to me."—M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire:

You Lie.

M. de Billing: What! I lie? It is perfectly true. You are eighty years of age, but when my honour is attacked even by an old man I must defend myself. M. Roustan quarrelled with Signor Maccio because he wanted to introduce to him Madame Elias, whom he knew one at Tunis receives into his house. Yes, M. Roustan, that was what ruffled your temper.—M. Roustan: It is false.—M. de Billing: And your letters; do you fancy that no one has them?—The President: Pray be a little more moderate in your language.—M. Roustan: I have always had in view the honour of the French flag. (Cheers.) M. de Billing: You have not troubled yourself about the shedding of French blood. (Commotion.) M. de Billing: M. Roustan has avenged himself for the Gallia business, in which M. Desfosses, who offered M. Roustan the money for that, is interested.—M. Desfosses (from his place): You lie. (Great commotion.) The President: M. Desfosses, come here and explain yourself. He gives a most formal *démenti* to M. de Billing's declaration.—M. de Billing (turning towards the picture of the crucified Saviour which hangs behind the President's chair): I swear to Christ that it is true. (Sensation.)—The President: M. de Billing, I shall be obliged to apply to you an article of the Penal Code, and to expel you.—M. Desfosses: The Gallia credit was a bona fide affair. It had been examined and approved by the International Commission. M. de Billing's statement is the most barefaced falsehood ever uttered in a court of justice.—M. Roustan struck off the list of advocates of the Paris bar. M. Desfosses replied that he was a few words. I have never entrusted M. de Billing with an official mission. M. de Billing, being indisponible, I found him work to enable him to claim his pay. He drew up a report on the affairs of Tunis, and actually advocated a war with Tunis. (Much laughter in court.) I took no notice of it. I do not know if M. de Noailles gave M. de Billing any instructions. I certainly was not aware of the fact, which he alludes.—The utmost excitement prevailed in the court after the extraordinary scene that had just been witnessed.—The sitting was adjourned.

The Result.

The trial was resumed and concluded on Thursday. The Public Prosecutor addressed the Court, and asked that a verdict should be found against M. Rochefort, in order to protect the honour of public officials, and that of the country. The jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty, and M. Rochefort and Despierre have consequently been acquitted. M. Roustan, as the prosecutor, will have to pay the costs. The verdict has produced a great sensation.

The Very Rev. Dr. Meagher, Dean of the Roman Catholic diocese of Dublin, and only second in authority to the Archbishop, died suddenly on Wednesday, at the age of 70 years.

M. Eugène Rimmel sends us a collection of Christmas cards, almanacs, and novelties, the designs of many of which are really artistic. The pictures on the dinner cards are droll and amusing. To those who like aunts, the nicely got-up aunts will prove attractive; while ingenious girls—and girls are particularly ingenious during the Yuletide season—will find it easy to put to practical use the contents of the *Novelties*.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,

TO THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS,
HELD ON THE 8th DECEMBER, 1881.

HEAD OFFICE:—ST. MILDRED'S HOUSE, LONDON.

THE DIRECTORS have now to present their Report on the operations of the Thirty-third financial year of the Society, ending 30th June, 1881. During the year 6,821 proposals were made to the Society for insuring the sum of £2,385,432 11s. 10d. Of these proposals 2,355 were accepted for the assurance of £1,255,951 3s. 9d., and policies were issued for that amount. The immediate annuities granted during the year were for the year payment of £12,600 5s. The income received from premiums, after deducting the amount paid for re-assurance, was £190,288 19s. 2d., of which £55,961 13s. was in premiums for the first year of assurance. The balance of the interest account amounted to £115,179 16s. 8d., which together with the receipt from premiums, raised the income of the Society for the year to £205,650 15s. 10d. The accrued interest, which had not been received at the date of closing the accounts, is included among the assets, in the item of "Outstanding Interest." The claims paid by the Society during the year were for £220,755 3s. 1d. under Life Assurance policies, and for £118,297 13s. 4d. as Endowments. The sum of £339,052 16s. 5d. was paid for the surrender of policies. After paying these amounts and all office expenses, both special and general, and after £27,197 16s. 5d. was paid for the annuities falling due within the year, and other charges on income, there remained a balance of receipts over the liabilities of the year of £117,876 8s. 3d. The funds available for investment and re-investment have been placed in such securities as will maintain the average rate of interest which in former years had been obtained. The funds available for the existing policies of the Society—for the claims

outstanding—for the annuities not applied for, and for other purposes specified in the Balance Sheet, make up a total of £2,064,914 12s. in realised assets as shown in the Second Schedule appended to this report. The accounts have been audited by G. H. LAMBURY, Esq., the Public Accountant (a shareholder of the Society), on the part of the shareholders; and by the Notary Public, W. W. VENN, Esq., (a policyholder) on behalf of the policyholders. The whole of the securities and documents representing the assets of the Society have been verified both by the Directors and the Auditors. The Directors retiring on the present occasion are Messrs. WILLIAM HENRY THORNTON, Esq., F.R.S., and JAMES LESTER HANCOCK, Esq., who being eligible and willing to serve, are recommended by the Board to constitute the list for re-election. Mr. LAMBURY and Mr. VENN retire as Auditors, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election, the former on behalf of the shareholders, and the latter on behalf of the policyholders. The present being the last year of the triennium, the valuation of the Society's policies will shortly be commenced. The Directors hope that the shareholders and policyholders will unite in ensuring the largest possible amount of new business during the current year. By order of the Board,

F. ALLAN CURTIS,

Actuary and Secretary

8th December, 1881.

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ABERDEEN—28, Market Street.

IRELAND.
BELFAST—Atlas Chambers, 3, Skipper Street.

Realised Assets (1881), £2,064,914. Life Assurance and Annuity Funds, £2,007,789. Annual Income, £235,459.

BONUS YEAR, 1882.

POLICIES effected before the 1st July, 1882, on the profit tables, with annual premiums, will participate in the Bonus to be declared next year, in the manner prescribed by the regulations of the Society. PROPOSAL FORMS, &c., to be obtained on application to the Society's Agents, or to F. ALLAN CURTIS, Actuary and Secretary.

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